What does it mean to be fit to practise?

Be part of the professional regulated social service workforce that works to the SSSC Code of Practice.
What does it mean to be fit to practise?

- You are part of the professional, regulated social service workforce in Scotland that works to the SSSC Code of Practice.
- You carry out an important role helping vulnerable people.
- To gain registration you need to be fit to practise.
- Registration confirms you are fit to practise.

Did you know that one in 13 people employed in Scotland work in social services? That’s over 200,000 people and we currently have over 100,000 on our Register.

Social service workers do a great job working with some of society’s most vulnerable people. You will be joining other professional workers who are on our Register such as social workers and people who work in adult residential and day care, children’s day and residential services and school care accommodation.

You need to work to the SSSC Code of Practice for Social Service Workers which you commit to when you gain registration. The Code sets out the national standards, values and behaviours for everyone working in the sector in Scotland. This means your colleagues will hold the same values, commitment and standards of practice as you, helping to strengthen the professionalism of the workforce and increase public confidence in social services. There is also a SSSC Code of Practice for Employers of Social Service Workers, which sets the standards they need to work to.

You can find out more and download the Codes on our website: www.sssc.uk.com/codes

What we need to know about when you’re applying to register

- You need to tell us about any relevant criminal convictions, but you do not need to tell us about all criminal convictions (see our criminal conviction guidance for more information www.sssc.uk.com/criminal-convictions-guidance).
- Any current disciplinary action your employer is taking against you.
- Any dismissal or demotion that has happened in the last five years.
- If you resigned during an employer’s investigation in the last five years.
- Any health condition which may affect your ability to practise safely and effectively.

Having a criminal conviction or being the subject of an investigation or disciplinary action by your employer doesn’t mean we won’t register you.

It does mean that your application may take longer to process as we may need to make further enquiries. You may want to apply for registration as soon as possible to give yourself more time to achieve it.

Key points to remember

- Respecting people who use services and their families, promoting their views and rights, listening to their feedback and taking complaints seriously are all part of your responsibilities now you are a registered worker.
- Everyone who works in social services is expected to uphold public trust and confidence in social services.
- You are responsible for the quality of your work and maintaining and improving your knowledge and skills.
- You have a role to play in being open and honest and reporting when harm has occurred.
- It is really important to also think about how you behave outside of work and to realise that it may have an impact on your registration.

We have information about where to get help and advice about fitness to practise on our website: www.sssc.uk.com/yourprofessionalconduct