

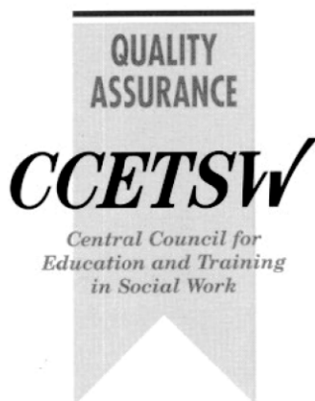
Assuring Quality

in the Diploma in Social Work -1

Rules and Requirements
for the DipSW

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Published by the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work
Derbyshire House, St Chad's Street, London WC1H 8AD

First published September 1989 as *Rules and Requirements for the Diploma in Social Work*
Second Edition September 1991
Revised August 1995
Second revision October 1996
ISBN 1 85719 168 4

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Printed by Latimer Trend & Company Ltd, Plymouth

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Foreword

The Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work (CCETSW) approved the Diploma in Social Work (DipSW) as the professional qualification for social workers and probation officers in April 1989 and issued the *Rules and Requirements for the Diploma in Social Work* (CCETSW Paper 30) in September 1989.* The DipSW replaced two former CCETSW qualifying awards, the Certificate of Qualification in Social Work (CQSW) and the Certificate in Social Service (CSS), and over the next five years CQSW courses and CSS schemes were gradually replaced by DipSW programmes. By September 1994 all intakes were to DipSW programmes. The Social Work Education and Training (Diploma in Social Work) Rules 1990, were approved by the Privy Council in November 1990 and amended in June 1991 and a second edition of Paper 30 was issued in September 1991 incorporating the revised Training Rules.

In January 1994, CCETSW began its first review of the DipSW in partnership with the Care Sector Consortium (CSC), the occupational standards council for health and social care. The review had five main aims:

- (i) to achieve contemporary relevance for the qualification in the context of changing needs, legislation and service delivery;
- (ii) to establish more consistent standards at outcome;
- (iii) to provide a sound professional base for a career in social work, firmly located in higher education;
- (iv) to secure the DipSW in the continuum of qualifications; and
- (v) to promote flexible opportunities for access to the education, training and qualification.

The partnership with the CSC recognized the Government's national standards programme and the remit of the CSC to develop national occupational standards. It equally respected CCETSW's remit as the sole awarding body for social work professional qualifying and post qualifying awards.

CCETSW, working with a joint CCETSW/CSC Steering Group, employed consultants - the National Institute for Social Work (NISW) and MainFrame - to develop national occupational standards for social workers on which to base the revision of the Statement of Requirements for the DipSW. There was extensive consultation, within the tight timetable requested by government, including two sets of UK-wide general workshops, particular workshops on values, residential care and probation, two questionnaire consultations in May and June, and consultation through CCETSW's central committees (the former Education and Training Committee and the Black Perspectives Committee) and its national committees. These were followed by more focused consultations in September, workshops with all DipSW partnerships and

*In 1995, the Home Office obtained Parliamentary consent to withdraw the requirement that probation officers in England and Wales must hold the DipSW or equivalent predecessor qualification. The Home Office intends to introduce a new system for training probation officers in England and Wales. The DipSW continues to be the preferred qualification for probation officers in Northern Ireland, and in Scotland there is no separate probation service.

Foreword

meetings with key interest groups, government officials and CCETSW's national committees.

On 20 October 1994, CCETSW Council considered at a two day meeting the product of this work, a firm draft of revised Rules and Requirements for the DipSW, and endorsed it for final UK-wide consultation with all the key education, employment, professional and government interests.

On 23 February 1995, taking account of these final consultations, CCETSW Council approved a series of changes to the DipSW, all of which are contained within this revised edition of the DipSW Rules and Requirements. Part 1 sets out the key features of the DipSW; Part 2, the Statement of Requirements, specifies the knowledge, skills and values required for the award of the Diploma, and Part 3 sets out the Rules and Requirements for DipSW programme providers.

CCETSW Council also approved the implementation programme. It encouraged as many DipSW programmes as possible to implement the revised requirements for their September 1995 student intakes and required all other programmes to implement the new requirements in full for their intakes in January or September 1996.

In recognition of the central importance of knowledge and understanding of the statutory responsibilities of social service/social work agencies in both the public and independent sectors, Council also required all DipSW programmes to review their law teaching for the September 1995 intakes and, where possible and necessary, to revise their assessment schedules to meet the new requirement for assessment of law. This new requirement states that all DipSW students must demonstrate through written formal assessment their understanding and application of the legislation relating to social work in the country in which they train.

This 1996 revision of the DipSW Rules and Requirements, once implemented, replaces the 1991 and 1995 editions entirely. Until 1997 the 1991 and 1996 editions have currency, but once the last students recruited under the 1991 and 1995 Rules and Requirements have graduated, this 1996 edition will be the sole authority for the DipSW.

CCETSW and employers will continue to recognize three main awards as qualifications for social work - the Diploma in Social Work (DipSW), the Certificate in Social Service (CSS), and the Certificate of Qualification in Social Work (CQSW), together with their predecessor qualifications.

CCETSW's arrangements for approving and monitoring DipSW programmes are set out in a companion volume - *Assuring Quality in the Diploma in Social Work-2: Approval, Review and Inspection of DipSW Programmes*.