

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

Module specification

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Module Code	SWK520
Module Title	Law and Social Work
Level	5
Credit value	20
Faculty	Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100503
Cost Code	GASW

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
BA (hons) Social Work: Qualified status	Core
BA (hons) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	Core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	30 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	0 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	30 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	170 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	16/08/23
With effect from date	01/09/23
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1

Module aims

To examine how social workers interact with and contribute to legal frameworks in their work with individuals, families and communities. This requires the acquisition of knowledge and skills in working within legal and policy frameworks that relate to social work provision in different national contexts. In Wales the development and consolidation of new legal frameworks to meet the wellbeing of individuals effectively creates new forms of social work practice as part of integrated frameworks, which will be explored throughout this module.

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Identify and analyse the impact of legal frameworks and their accompanying guidance on individuals, families and carers with a specific emphasis on social work practice in Wales.
2	Identify and analyse current case law, and its practice implications, and consider its effect on those needing care and support.
3	Consider how the interaction of law and social work practice can create conflicting personal and professional imperatives
4	Consider how to apply legal framework processes in a co-productive and anti-oppressive manner
5	Demonstrate accountability through module engagement

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

2,500-word case study assignment which explores the legal frameworks used for individuals in crisis and how longer-term packages of care and support can be implemented to promote wellbeing, utilising the co-production of law within a context of anti-oppressive practice in Wales.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1,2,3,4	Written Assignment	100
2	5	Attendance	Pass/Fail

Derogations

Two attempts only at the assessment.

This module must achieve at least 40% pass mark and is not eligible for compensation.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The module will use a variety of methods for teaching & learning, including lectures, group work, discussion, use of VLE for discussions, links to resources, lecture notes, etc. Practitioner and Outside In participation will be a feature, including use of materials (e.g. written accounts etc.) and visiting speakers. Practice examples will be used in the form of case studies, drawing on students' own experience and talks/workshops delivered by social workers and social care practitioners.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

Across two semesters, bracketing the 80-day practice learning opportunity the module will cover the following areas

- The legislative context for Wales and the ways in which it complements legislation used in the broader context of the UK.
- Social work and related primary legislation.
- Case law with a particular focus on the safeguarding of people, mental health, mental capacity and the Deprivation of Liberties.
- The policy frameworks and accompanying guidance from Welsh Government to support approaches to social work with children and adults.
- An analysis of human rights frameworks and anti- discriminatory/oppressive practice within the context of using law in practice.
- An exploration of how different legal frameworks can interact to create potentially conflicting outcomes for those individuals, carers, families, communities, and organisations engaged in the legal process.

On return from the PLO the focus will shift to the analysis and consolidation of learning gained in practice.

Indicative Bibliography:

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads

Brammer, A. (2020), *Social Work Law*. 5th ed. Harlow: Pearson Education Ltd.

Livingston, W., Redcliffe, J and Quinn Aziz, A. (eds.) (2023), *Social Work in Wales*. Bristol: Policy Press. Available from <https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/social-work-in-wales> (Publication Date June 2023).

Other indicative reading

Abbott, S. (2022), 'Decision Making by Practitioners in the Social Professions Involved in Compulsory Admission to Mental Health Hospital: A Scoping Review', *British Journal of Social Work*, Vol. 52, pp. 1916–1933.

Braye, S. & Preston-Shoot, M. (2016), *Practicing Social Work Law*. 4th ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Carr, H. and Goosey, D. (2021), *Law for Social Workers*. 16th ed. Oxford: Oxford University press.

Chisnell, C. and Kelly, C. (2019), *Safeguarding in Social Work practice; A Lifespan Approach*. 2nd ed. London: Sage Publications.

Dickens, J. (2013), *Social Work, Law and Ethics*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Levenson, J. (2017), 'Trauma-Informed Social Work Practice', *Social Work*, Vol. 62, No .2, pp. 105–113.

Long, A-L., Roche, J. & Stringer, D. (2010), *The Law and Social Work: Contemporary Issues for Practice*. 2nd ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Mental Health Act 1983. [online]. Available from:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1983/20/section/7>. [Accessed 23rd March, 2023].

Mental Health Wales Measure 2010. [online]. Available from:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2010/7/contents>. [Accessed 23rd March, 2023.]

Johns, R. (2017), *Using the Law in Social Work*. 7th ed. London: Sage.

Tew, J. (2005), *Social Perspectives in Mental Health: Developing Social Models to Understand and Work with Mental Distress*. London: Jessica Kingsley.

Journals

British Journal of Social Work

Child and Family Social Work

International Social Work

Employability – the University Skills Framework

Each module and programme is designed to cover core Graduate attributes with the aim that each Graduate will leave the University having achieved key employability skills as part of their study. The following attributes will be covered within this module either through the content or as part of the assessment. The programme is designed to cover all attributes and each module may cover different areas.

Core Attributes

Engaged

Enterprising

Creative

Ethical

Key Attitudes

Commitment
Curiosity
Resilience
Confidence
Adaptability

Practical Skillsets

Organisation
Leadership and Team working
Critical Thinking
Emotional Intelligence
Communication