

**Practice Development Award Practice Learning (PDAPL)**

The programme aims to equip learners with the skills and knowledge to become practice teachers. It has three components: a taught course, working with a student and compiling a portfolio of evidence necessary to gain the PDA.

The taught course comprises 8 days, which learners **must** attend and concentrates on the practical skills and underpinning theory and knowledge associated with practice teaching. It covers the following topics:

* The social work degree and the role of the Practice Teacher
* Supporting Adult Learning
* Reflection and critical analysis
* Learning cultures
* Design of learning opportunities
* Knowledge, theory, research and evidence-based practice
* Planning and managing a student placement
* The SiSWE and matching learning objectives and learning opportunities
* Working with diversity and students with disabilities
* Managing change
* Supervision
* Giving feedback
* Conducting direct observations
* Assessment of students
* Evaluation
* Leadership for Learning
* Continuous Professional Development

The Practice Development Award itself is an SQA award and consists of 7 units (total of 64 SQA credit points) at SQCF Level10 (Honours Degree Level equivalent). The taught programme runs in parallel with the Award and covers relevant knowledge.

You will have a Practice Assessor whose role is to support you to achieve the award and to assess your work. The award is achieved by developing a portfolio of evidence which comprises a mix of critically reflective, analytical and evaluative essays, observations, professional discussions and documents generated in your work with the student. Learners will be expected to complete their first assessable tasks before working with a social work a student, other assessable tasks will be completed during and after supporting a student.

The Units of the Award are:

[Support Learning in a Social Services Practice Context](http://www.westlearningnetwork.org.uk/images/Uploads/PDAPL/Unit%202%20Support%20Learning%20in%20Practice%20Context%20ss.pdf)

[Evidence Based Practice in Social Services](http://www.westlearningnetwork.org.uk/images/Uploads/PDAPL/Unit%201%20Evidence%20Based%20Practice%20SS.pdf)  
[Create an Environment for Learning](http://www.westlearningnetwork.org.uk/images/Uploads/PDAPL/Unit%203%20Create%20an%20Environment%20for%20Learning.pdf)  
[Establish Effective Working Relationships](http://www.westlearningnetwork.org.uk/images/Uploads/PDAPL/Unit%204%20-%20Establish%20Effective%20Working%20Relationships.pdf)  
[Facilitate and Supervise Learning](http://www.westlearningnetwork.org.uk/images/Uploads/PDAPL/Unit%205%20Facilitate%20Learning.pdf)  
[Assessment of Learners](http://www.westlearningnetwork.org.uk/images/Uploads/PDAPL/Unit%206%20-%20Assessment%20of%20Learners.pdf)  
[Leadership for Learning](http://www.westlearningnetwork.org.uk/images/Uploads/PDAPL/Unit%208%20-%20Leadership%20for%20Learning.pdf)

The PDA in Practice Learning is timetabled to take approximately 12 months to complete; learners typically have a maximum of 18 months to complete the award. Learners should negotiate 1 day study time to complete each unit, and expect to undertake additional study in their own time. The PDA involves a substantial commitment and potential candidates should consider whether they will be able to give the time necessary.

If you have any queries please contact:

Cath Montgomery, Practice Learning Development Officer on [cath.montgomery@westlearn.org.uk](mailto:cath.montgomery@westlearn.org.uk)