Module Descriptor

Title	Social Work Law		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	
Code	SWRK08009	**SCQF Level**	7
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	Education and Social Science		
Module Co-ordinator	D Sidhva		

Summary of Module

This module contributes to effective preparation for placement by introducing them to key aspects of policy and legislation in Scotland, which underpin contemporary social work practice.

The module covers investigates human rights, duties and responsibilities of social work practitioners. It analyses significant and policy and legal contexts of community care, justice and children and families social work. Practical applications are applied throughout teaching, to illustrate the ethical dimensions of applying policy and legislation.

Module Delivery Method	**On-Campus**[1] ☒	**Hybrid**[2] ☐	**Online**[3] ☐	**Work -Based Learning**[4] ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☒ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☒ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)	

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☒	Term 2	☐	Term 3	☐
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate contextual knowledge and understanding of policy and legislation relevant to social work practice.
L2	Demonstrate applied knowledge of relevant policy and legislation, to aid professional social work decision-making, including professional assessment.
L3	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of relevant policy and legislation to enhance professional identity, specifically in relation to anti-oppressive requirements.

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	**During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:**
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	**SCQF Level 8** Students will develop a robust understanding of the legal basis for social work interventions in Scotland.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF Level 8** Students will develop the ability to apply their knowledge to a range of professional practice contexts.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF Level 8** Students will develop the ability to critically evaluate and synthesize ideas, concepts and information relevant to social work process and practice and to develop and present reasoned opinions and coherent arguments.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF Level 8** Students will develop a range of professional communication and ICT skills as a result of engagement in this module. These will include developing competence in the use of a variety of online platforms used in professional social work practice.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF Level 8** Students will take responsibility for significant elements of their own learning as well as working in groups and teams.

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	Other	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**

Learning and Teaching	
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.	
Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	**Student Learning Hours** (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Workshop/lecture	36
Independent study	164
Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200 hours.

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Davis, G. and Gordon, J. (2021) Social Work and the Law in Scotland. Farrer, A. (2026) Social Work Law in Scotland. Guthrie, T. (2018) Social Work Law in Scotland. Maclean, S. and Shiner, M. (2018) Social Care and the Law in Scotland. Smith, N. and Young, N. R. (2024) Adult Protection and the Law in Scotland.
(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements
In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time. **For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:** - SSSC require a minimum attendance threshold of 80% at scheduled teaching.

Equality and Diversity
The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code. This module is fully compliant with this code.
(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	Psychology and Social Work.
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.**
School Assessment Board	Social Work, ESS
Moderator	D. Calderwood
External Examiner	J. Davey
Accreditation Details	SSSC
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Written assessment (100%)
Assessment 2
Assessment 3
(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed. (ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Written Assessment	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	100	36

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	hours

Change Control

What	When	Who