

**Step Up to Social Work cohort 6 – application form**

Please complete and return this annex by **5 October 2018** to  
[Socialworkreform.SG@education.gov.uk](mailto:Socialworkreform.SG@education.gov.uk)

<p><b>Full name of local authority/Trust acting as lead for Regional Partnership</b></p>	<p>North Tyneside Council</p>
<p><b>Point of contact within your local authority for this programme</b></p>	<p>Name: Louise Robson</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Quadrant  Silverlink North  Cobalt Business Park  North Tyneside</p> <p>Postcode: NE27 0BY</p> <p>Phone: (0191) 643 5043</p> <p>Email:  Louise.Robson@northtyneside.gov.uk</p>

1. Do you have letters of commitment from all of the local authorities in your proposed partnership ( <i>please scan and submit</i> )?  Yes/No and how many?	Yes	12
List of local authorities in your regional partnership	Name / e-mail address of lead contact in LA	Number of candidates LA wishes to train
<b>Darlington</b>	Paige Thomason paige.thomason@darlington.gov.uk	6
<b>Durham</b>	Glynis Baron glynis.baron@durham.gov.uk	5
<b>Gateshead</b>	Catherine Hardman catherine.hardman@gateshead.gov.uk	3
<b>Hartlepool</b>	Leigh Keeble leigh.keeble@hartlepool.gov.uk	2
<b>Middlesbrough</b>	Suzy Kitching suzy_kitching@middlesbrough.gov.uk	6
<b>Newcastle</b>	John Brown King john.brownking@newcastle.gov.uk	6
<b>North Tyneside</b>	Louise Robson louise.robson@northtyneside.gov.uk	4
<b>Northumberland</b>	Tracey Horseman tracey.horseman@northumbria-healthcare.nhs.uk	4
<b>Redcar &amp; Cleveland</b>	Louise Walker louise.walker@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk	4
<b>South Tyneside</b>	Lisa henderson lisa.henderson@southtyneside.gov.uk	4
<b>Stockton</b>	Liz Colman elizabeth.colman@stockton.gov.uk	4
<b>Sunderland</b>	Catherine Witt catherine.witt@togetherforchildren.org.uk	6
Total number of candidates your RP wishes to train:		54

<p><b>2. Which HEI(s) have you contacted about offering <i>Step Up to Social Work</i>?</b></p> <p>(Name / contact for HEI(s))</p>	<p>Manchester Met University</p> <p>Contact:</p> <p>Andrea Collins Principal Lecturer</p> <p>Head of Undergraduate and Qualifying Programmes, Dept Social Care and Social Work, Manchester Metropolitan University, Brooks Building, Bonsall Street, Manchester M15 6GX</p> <p>Tel. 0161 247 2534</p> <p>Email a.collins@mmu.ac.uk</p>
<p>Can you indicate at what phase this contact is at with the HEI(s)?</p>	<p>MMU are our current provider for cohort 5. Should the North East Regional Partnership be successful in our bid we would look to continue this arrangement where possible.</p>
<p><b>3. Are you at a stage where the HEI has confirmed they are willing to train the number of candidates desired by the RP? – If yes, please provide evidence of HEI commitment and number of students agreed to train</b></p>	<p>Yes – letter of commitment attached.</p>

**4. Describe your proposed programme for Step Up including:**

- how the course will address the Chief Social Workers' Knowledge and Skills Statements in both academic and practice delivery;
- How the design, delivery and governance of Step Up will be employer led (what elements of social work practice, theory, evidence and research will be included);
- how a focus on statutory child and family social work will be balanced with the need for students to gain understanding of issues across all social work;
- academic quality assurance mechanisms;
- how you will ensure regulatory approval so that graduates can go on to register as a social worker;
- Has this been validated with HCPC-evidence required.

(max 750 words)

**KSS:** In partnership with our chosen HEI, the practice curriculum will be written to address the Knowledge and Skills for Social Work as published by the Chief Social Worker. Assessment of candidates' practice will be undertaken by the Practice Assessment Panel (PAP). The PAP will comprise of Practice Educators from each local authority and staff from the HEI. This panel will assess the placement portfolios which provide evidence from the student and practice educator that the student has met the Knowledge and Skills requirements of the placement.

**Employer led:** The North East Cohort 6 bid includes a Steering group, with a representative from each Local Authority plus the HEI provider.

The steering group is responsible for all decisions around the Step Up to Social Work Programme within the North East. It is strongly supported by the North East Directors of Children and Adult Services and reports will be fed into the appropriate Directors Group on a regular basis. The group will also link to the North East Workforce Development Group so it is shaped by the demands of local authorities as well as initiatives coming out of central government such as the assessment and accreditation process for child and family practitioners.

**Wider understanding:** The course will be delivered via a mix of online, and face to face academic sessions supported by direct practice in a local authority.

Placements will be provided in Adult Services (70 days) and Children's Services (100 days).

It is expected that students will engage in a formal review of their progress with their personal tutors. These reviews should look at how well the student is meeting the Knowledge and Skills requirements. These meetings will be pivotal in providing opportunities for the students to holistically reflect on all dimensions of their learning on the programme.

	<p><b>Academic QA:</b> All the local authorities in the Regional Partnership are involved in training and assessing their Practice Educators to meet the Practice Educator standards.</p> <p>The HEI provider meets academic QA standards. The Steering Group includes a representative from the HEI and is involved in QA processes, for example meetings with student representatives during the programme.</p> <p><b>Regulatory approval:</b> The Step Up to Social Work Programme within the North East Region will include a 14 month fast track course where participants are hosted within local authority social work for the entire period. This gives participants the chance to learn in-depth about the nature of statutory social work in a single local authority, as a result increasing their job-readiness.</p> <p><b>HCPC validation:</b> The regional partnership aims to provide a programme in which practice and theory are integrated and support each other.</p> <p>The HEI provider has extensive experience in social work training including the Step Up programme and continues to meet HEI validation requirements.</p> <p>Placements and Practice Educator support within the local authorities meet the required standards. Local authorities are keen that they recruit students that would go on to complete the ASYE within their local authorities and stay with them for some time after qualification. They are committed to finding placements of the highest quality for students and supporting their learning in the best possible manner.</p>
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<p><b>5. What specific actions you intend to take in order to advertise and promote C6, including how you will target more BAME and male applicants</b></p> <p>(max 250 words)</p>	<p>The regional jobs portal (<a href="https://www.northeastjobs.org.uk/">https://www.northeastjobs.org.uk/</a>) will be used to advertise cohort 6 across the region.</p> <p>In addition each participating Local Authority will advertise and promote cohort 6 internally and to any relevant partner organisations.</p> <p>This promotion of the programme will again include HEIs in the region; statutory / voluntary / community settings where potential applicants may be working in associated roles and for whom the bursary may provide a valuable additional opportunity to progress into social work.</p> <p>These approaches were used in cohorts 4 and 5 and resulted in a high number of applications and a relatively diverse range of applicants going through to assessment centre stage, and subsequently taking part in to the programme.</p>
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<p><b>6. Please provide details of proposed placement arrangements for <i>Step Up to Social Work</i> participants - i.e. type of placement and the experience gained from it. As a minimum you need to offer at least one statutory placement, with aspirations for two where possible. Please include details of the support mechanisms for students whilst on placement. Where any local authority in your partnership is rated “inadequate” by Ofsted, please detail additional measures you will take to provide assurance that students are properly supported and that they have opportunity to observe good practice</b></p> <p>(max 250 words)</p>	<p>We intend to offer two statutory placements. The longer 100-day placement on a 4-day a week basis in front line children’s social work teams. With the shorter 70 day placement in Adult Services.</p> <p>At the beginning of each placement, Practice Educators will be encouraged to attend briefings, led by the chosen HEI, which informs them about the distinctive nature of the Step up programme. This covers the aim of helping students to link theory and practice and where there are tasks for the student to help them to do this. This will also cover the need for students to be assessed against the Knowledge and Skills, embedding these elements with practitioners as well as students.</p> <p>This approach has been used in previous cohorts in the North East and there is evidence from research report into the value and effectiveness of cohort 4 in the region that students across all the participating local authorities were very positive about</p>
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	<p>their placement experiences. As a result gaining a realistic understanding of what child and family social work entails.</p> <p>Where a local authority is rated as inadequate, the approach described above enables Practice Educators and students to understand and observe good practice. Additional support will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring the availability of appropriately qualified and experienced Practice Educators</li> <li>• Opportunities to discuss and share good practice with students hosted by other local authorities</li> <li>• Support from a locally based independent tutor</li> <li>• Monitoring of progress by the appropriate member of the partnership steering group</li> </ul>
<p><b>7.</b> Please confirm the specific actions that will be taken to ensure LAs and HEIs will have the resources available to process applications in the period February - August 2019 and conduct checks in the period May/June 2019. This might include people, rooms, requirements for the support contractor, etc.</p> <p>(max 250 words)</p>	<p>All local authorities in the Regional Partnership have the approval of their Senior Managers.</p> <p>Local authorities have committed the time required by the Regional Partnership to support the programme and each local authority has a named lead on the Partnership Steering Group.</p> <p>Senior Managers have agreed to the active participation in the Partnership Steering Group by the Leads in the knowledge of the scale of the task ahead.</p> <p>Commitment from the Directors of Children’s Services, Assistant Directors as well as Workforce Leads and Principal Social Workers is clear. The Partnership has identified the time required by Local Authority staff to support the programme and Senior Managers have agreed to participation in the knowledge of the staff time required to support the programme.</p> <p>Local authorities are committed to the Partnership to allocate and provide rooms and resources for assessment centres. Once dates and times are</p>

	<p>arranged each local authority is committed to seeking Practitioners, Managers and Service Users to attend these days.</p> <p>Named Leads as well as Practitioners and Managers are committed to working with the Regional Partnership on a no cost basis as part of their agreement to taking part in the Step up programme.</p> <p>Representatives from our chosen HEI will be expected to attend the dates of the Regional Partnership Steering Group and play a pro-active role in the sifting of applications as well as the interviewing and assessment of applicants.</p>
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<p><b>8.</b> Where your regional partnership is also involved in a teaching partnership, do you have separate accounting procedures in place to differentiate funding streams?</p>	<p>Yes – funds are held in separate local authorities ensuring complete transparency of accounting.</p>
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<p><b>9.</b> Please confirm that your regional partnership will commit to the timescales laid out in Annex D of this letter?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
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