



## Social Work Education Group

### New funding for practice learning - frequently asked questions

New funding arrangements for practice learning opportunities for DipSW programmes and social work degree courses – YOUR questions answered.

#### Receiving payment

Question 1: **Would it be possible for the per day money to be paid separately than the placement monies?**

Answer: To speed up payments and to avoid incorrect amounts being paid into different accounts, the GSCC will pay all money due under one specific funding agreement in one payment, either by bank automated clearing system (BACS) or cheque. If this causes real problems we would consider making two separate payments as long as different account details were given for both types of funding.

Question 2: **When payment is made by BACS it is not always easy for universities or programmes to check how much has been received and for what purpose. Is there any way this can be made clearer?**

Answer: From April 2004 when the social work education group sends a request for payment to the GSCC finance department they will send an extra copy of the payment request form. The GSCC finance department will then send this copy form to the payee when payment has been made. At the same time that this is happening, when the social work education group writes to the university or programme to tell them that they have processed the payment they will include a contract summary form. This should make it easier for the payment receipts to be married up at the university. In addition to this, when the social work education group sends out end of year finance reports for completion they will include a financial statement of everything that the university or programme has received from them against the specific funding agreement.

Question 3: **What happens if I don't use my full allocation for degree practice learning funding**

Answer: We will recoup the difference from next year's allocation. We will also deduct your next year's £2 per day allocation by the number of days you were short.

#### Per day funding and daily rate

Question 4: **What is the £2 per day funding for – can it be used for printing course materials?**

Answer: The £2 per practice placement day funding is a contribution towards the costs of administering the new funding arrangements. Course materials are not a part of that cost and should be covered as part of the routine costs involved in running any university course.

Question 5: **What can the £2 per day be used for? And who retains the money?**

Answer: The money is to be retained by the university and can be used for administration, planning and distribution of placements. It must not be used for direct placements.

Question 6: **Are there any guidelines or set amounts for the three elements of the daily rate, for example the assessment element?**

Answer: There are no specific rates set and it is possible to have different rates across regions. The full daily rate should be passed on to the agency that will negotiate rates if they are not able to provide one or more of the elements.

Question 7: **Is the 'planning' element of the daily rate for the development of new placements, or is it for the planning of the specific placement.**

Answer: It is for the setting up and planning of the specific placement.

## **What is and isn't funded**

Question 8: **Why are student travel costs not funded via practice learning funding any more?**

Answer: There is no longer funding available for student travel via the social work education group because individual students receive an element of their bursary to cover travel costs.

Question 9: **Is there any news yet on overseas placements? There are different categories of 'overseas' student and it is important to recognise that.**

Answer: The Department of Health has agreed that there should be no obstacles to paying for practice learning opportunities external to the United Kingdom, as long as the placement is part of the required 200 days assessed practice learning. The daily rate for payment should be at the lower rate unless the agency can provide equivalent evidence that they fall into the higher rate category. The HEI will need to ensure they have suitable systems in place to monitor the quality of the placement and to track and audit payments.

Question 10: <b>Is there any funding available to pay for observational placements?</b>
Answer: The only funding available from the GSCC for placements is for the required 200 days. There is no additional funding for shadow or observational placements.

Question 11: <b>Can we claim the funding for placements days for students on an employment-based route?</b>
Answer: The GSCC will fund all students on employment-based routes, regardless of where they do their placement.

Question 12: <b>If a placement breaks down how much will the original agency get for the planning of it and will the repeat placement be funded in full?</b>
Answer: The original agency should be paid for the number of days that the student attended the placement. The repeat placement will be funded in full, but we ask that some evidence be submitted to say why the repeat was necessary. This is so that we can monitor repeat or extended placements to see if they are having an impact on the overall budget.

## Agencies

Question 13: <b>Is there a time limit on how long the named voluntary practice learning consortia may be considered as agencies?</b>
Answer: There is no limit set at the moment but it is a temporary arrangement for the time being. If there is any change to this arrangement we will confirm in writing in advance.

Question 14: <b>Is there an agreed definition for statutory and voluntary or private sector agencies?</b>
Answer: All placements will be paid at the lower daily rate unless the organisation providing the placement can provide the university with evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• their charitable status;</li> <li>• that they have registered private company status; and</li> <li>• that they are a service user or carer led organisation.</li> </ul> <p>Rates paid to agencies will be checked by GSCC as part of end of year contract compliance checks.</p>

## Quality-assurance

Question 15: **What are the arrangements for the quality assurance of the placement? This isn't the assessment of the student but the assessment of the agency.**

Answer: The university or programme is responsible for making sure that placements are of a suitable quality. There is no additional funding available for this; it is part of the responsibility for running the new social work degree or DipSW. Also available is PeLQET, this is an electronic web-based evaluation tool to assess the quality of practice learning opportunities (PLOs) for social work students. Information about PeLQET is available on the Practice Learning Taskforce web site at [www.practicelearning.org.uk](http://www.practicelearning.org.uk).

Question 16: **Should the placement provider be monitored by GSCC or by the University**

Answer: The university will monitor the quality of the placement only.

## Other questions relating to GSCC

Question 17: **Will the GSCC social work bursary cover the full cost of the variable tuition fee?**

Answer: The Department of Health are currently working on a full review of whether all the bursary budgets (NHS Student Grants Unit Funding and GSCC) will be able to support the increase in fees.

Question 18: **How much will it cost students to register on the GSCC student register?**

Answer: Registration for social work students is £10 per year, which works out at less than 3p a day. The fee is the same throughout the UK. For more up to date information visit the GSCC website:

<http://www.gsc.org.uk/The+Social+Care+Register/How+to+register/Students/About+student+applications.htm>

Question 19: **Do students from overseas and Northern Ireland receive a GSCC bursary?**

Answer: Students who come to England, from other countries, for the purpose of starting a course, do not meet the residency criteria to receive a bursary.

## Any further questions?

If you have any other questions, please get in touch by:

**Phone:** The social work education group's general number is **01788 532400** or if you know who your administrator is you can telephone them on their direct line.

**Fax:** Write down your question and send it back to us on the following number **01788 532444**.

**Email:** [sweggeneralenquiries@gsc.org.uk](mailto:sweggeneralenquiries@gsc.org.uk).