**5.1.19 Regulatory Social Care Council's UK**

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 **1.****Introduction**

Under the Care Standards Act 2000 all qualified social workers, and those working towards a social work qualification, who wish to practise in the UK are required to be registered with the relevant workforce regulator for the country in which they work.

In Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland ’social carers’ are required to ensure that they too have taken the necessary steps as outlined by the relevant country’s Care Council to register their practice and adhere to the relevant codes of practice.

There are four UK social work regulators located in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

A [**Memorandum of Understanding**](http://www.hpc-uk.org/Assets/documents/10003BCDSocial-work-Memorandum-of-Understanding.pdf) has been agreed between the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), the Care Council for Wales, the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC) and the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) (collectively 'the Four Councils') and this sets out a framework for the working relationship between the Four Councils in relation to the regulation of social workers and the approval of social work education across the UK.

The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) have produced some [**FAQs**](http://www.hpc-uk.org/aboutregistration/regulators/socialwork/) (click to link) that should help to answer general queries for social workers wishing to work across the four home countries in the UK.

 **2.****England - The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)**

The [**Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)**](http://www.hcpc-uk.org/) formerly the Health Professions Council, assumed responsibility for the regulation of social workers in England on 1st August 2012, from the General Social Care Council (GSCC) which was abolished on 31 July 2012.

The HCPC is responsible for setting standards, approving and monitoring education and training programmes for social workers in England and as well as investigating concerns raised about them.

Social workers have to meet the [**HCPC Standards of Proficiency**](http://www.hcpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10003B08Standardsofproficiency-SocialworkersinEngland.pdf) which are competency standards relevant to their area of practice. They also have to meet the [**Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics**](http://www.hcpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10003B6EStandardsofconduct%2Cperformanceandethics.pdf). These are overarching standards that apply to all of the 16 health and care professions that the HCPC regulates. Both sets of HCPC standards play a key role in ensuring public protection by making sure that social workers in England will have the competency, knowledge, values and behaviour expected of them by members of the public and employers alike.

**3.****Wales - Care Council for Wales**

The [**Care Council for Wales**](http://www.ccwales.org.uk/) holds a Register of Social Care Workers and Social Workers employed and practicing in Wales; it is the manager's duty to ensure that staff comply with regulations.

All care workers must be registered within 6 months of employment. Failure to be registered within the first six months of employment will deem the worker 'un-fit' to continue working

The Register of Social Care Workers was established under the Care Standards Act 2000. The aim of the Register is to make sure that all social workers and social care workers are suitable for work in social care.

Everybody who applies to the Register held by the Care Council for Wales must agree to abide by the [**Code of Practice for Workers**](http://www.ccwales.org.uk/code-of-professional-practice/).

 **4.****Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC)**

[**Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC)**](http://www.sssc.uk.com/registration/do-i-need-to-register/who-should-apply-to-register) registers key groups of Scotland's social service workers. Registration of these workers has an important role in improving safeguards for people using services and increasing public confidence in the sector. The Register for Social Service Workers is function based, rather than qualification based, meaning that an applicant must be performing a relevant role in a service registered by the Care Inspectorate, rather than holding a specific qualification, before they become eligible to register with SSSC (residential childcare workers are required to be registered).

The Register for Social Workers and Students is based on either holding or studying for a suitable social work qualification.

The [**SSSC's Codes of Practice**](http://www.sssc.uk.com/about-the-sssc/codes-of-practice/what-are-the-codes-of-practice) for Social Service Workers and Employers sets out the standards social workers, social care, early years and young people's workers and their employers should meet. By setting out clear standards of conduct for workers, people who use services know what they can expect from their workers.

 **5.****Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC)**

[**Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC)**](http://www.niscc.info/) is the regulatory body for the social care workforce in Northern Ireland, they aim to increase the protection of those using social care services, their carers and the public by improving and regulating standards of conduct, training and practice in the social care workforce.

The social care workforce includes people working in a range of job roles, providing, managing or supplying personal care and support to individuals, families and communities. Registration with the NISCC recognises a social care worker's commitment to providing quality services for those who need it most. It shows that they are suitably trained, professional in their practice and accountable for the work they do. Registered workers must meet the agreed standards in their conduct and practice set out in the [**NISCC Code of Practice**](http://www.niscc.info/index.php). [**NISCC Registration Rules**](http://www.niscc.info/storage/resources/20160315_registration-rules-2016_final_signed_cc.pdf) and [**Conduct Rules**](http://www.niscc.info/) ensure that we register and regulate the workforce in a fair and robust manner.

**End**

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