JOB DESCRIPTION

Programme overview

Are you a social worker who has been out of practice for between two and 10 years, and who wants to return to the profession? If the answer is yes, you may be eligible for a place on the Local Government Association's Return to Social Work programme.

The programme will carefully select 200 social workers who are currently on a career break, and provide them with free, high quality training so they can re-register with Social Work England and return to practice in councils.

The experience and skills that returning social workers bring make them incredibly valuable assets; not only to the most vulnerable people in society, but to their colleagues. Those who are returning are finding that practical changes have been made to better support them. These changes include access to personal development training, opportunities to work closely with partners like the NHS, and improved IT to enable flexible working.

Getting back into the profession after a period away can be tough. With the support this programme provides, you can regain the confidence, experience and knowledge you need to get back to making a real difference to people's lives.

Social work isn't just a career, it's your career. Join us now, and let's make a better future for those who need us.

What does the programme involve?

The Return to Social Work programme is divided into three core stages:

- **Stage 1** – Training: Candidates will be asked to complete either 30 days or 60 days of training, depending on how long they have been out of practice for. The training provided will equip candidates with the skills and knowledge they need to get back to making a real difference to people's lives.
- **Stage 2** – Placements: Candidates will have the opportunity to complete a placement in a local authority for a minimum of 10 days.
- **Stage 3** – Interviews: Once candidates complete their placements, they will have the opportunity to apply and interview for vacant positions with councils that have signed up to the programme.

During the training stage of the programme, candidates will:

☑ be placed into an Action Learning Sets (ALS)

- The aim of the ALS is to provide a space for candidates to work through case studies that are based on real life scenarios.
- Candidates will draw upon knowledge gained from the programme's workshops and work experience opportunities, as well as their own knowledge and skills to identify solutions to the scenarios.

☑ be coached

- The aim of these sessions is to help candidates rebuild their resilience and confidence in order to prepare them for returning to social work.
- Candidates will continue to receive coaching for three months after successfully completing the programme

☑ attend workshops with Making Research Count

- Making Research Count (MRC) forms part of King's College, London. It will provide workshops on key knowledge and theoretical input to enable candidates to meet the knowledge requirements for the:
  - Professional Capabilities Framework (PCF)
  - Knowledge and Skills Statements (KSS) for Social Workers in Adult Services
  - Standards of Proficiency (SOP).

☑ develop their interview skills

- Candidates will attend an interview skills session, where they can take part in a mock interview and receive feedback.

☑ be supported to re-register with Social Work England (previously HCPC)

☑ receive guidance on how to develop a CPD portfolio

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for the programme, candidates must have:

- practised as social workers for at least two years after achieving their qualifications
- practised in a statutory setting within the UK
- the right to work in the UK
- been out of social care practice for between two and 10 years
- drive to return to the sector
- a wealth of past experience and invaluable knowledge

Apply

To apply for the programme, visit the **Local Government Association's website**.

If you have any questions, please contact returntosocialwork@local.gov.uk.

Local Government Association
18 Smith Square
London SW1P 3HZ

Telephone 020 7664 3000
Email info@local.gov.uk
www.local.gov.uk

© Local Government Association, January 2020

For a copy in Braille, larger print or audio,
please contact us on 020 7664 3000.
We consider requests on an individual basis.

REF 40.13