

Students

Join us and you'll benefit from a dedication to development that's typified by various initiatives including a raft of tailored training packages.

Our services span many specialist groups so you'll also find unrivalled scope and the widest variety of casework.

Wherever your interest lies, you'll benefit from flexible working arrangements, a clear progression scale and a refreshingly open, less hierarchical culture than you might have expected.

To find out more about how you can make a personal difference to a million people, read on.

Training Schemes

We are currently offering training schemes to a limited number of current employees. A pre-requisite to this access to training as a social worker is two years service with Birmingham City Council in a Social Work Assistant role. Opportunities to be trained as a social worker are very competitive and are only offered internally currently as demand is so high. We do not offer training to become a social worker to external recruits. Further information regarding internal training schemes can be obtained from Carol Dutton, Trainee Social Work Scheme Co-ordinator, telephone 0121 464 1653.

Placements

We have a long track record of offering a large numbers of placements to social work students who are undertaking their qualifying training, i.e. the social work degree. Our first priority is to find placements for students from local universities with whom we have traditionally had partnership arrangements – the University of Birmingham and the Birmingham City University. There are also developing links with the University of Wolverhampton and it's likely that we will be finding more placements for their students in the future.

We often get requests from other Universities seeking placements for their students. If we have met our agreed quota with our local university partners, we are sometimes able to offer a few placements to such external students. These negotiations need to be handled by the Student Support Team and the University Placement Co-ordinator.

Which Service Areas can students be placed in?

Most placements are found in the Adults & Communities and Children, Young People and Families Directorates. If you're a Level 1 Social Work Student you will benefit from direct work with service users in settings such as Day Centres or Residential Units in either Directorate. And then, as you progress through the degree, you'll begin to work in more challenging environments, undertaking assessments where risk is a factor, e.g. in area field work teams in both Directorates. There are also opportunities for you to gain experience in specialised teams, e.g. Child and Adolescent Mental Health, Youth Offending service, and 16+ Care Leavers in Children Young People & Families, and the Rehabilitation Service in Adults & Communities.



Placements are also becoming available through our links with the Birmingham Care Development Agency, with social care agencies in the Private, Independent and Voluntary sectors, covering a wide range of work with different groups of people.

Who should you contact about a placement?

If you're a Social Work Student who would like a placement with us, you need to make this clear to the Practice Learning Co-ordinator at your University. They will then need to speak to the Student Support Team (telephone 0121 303 0990) to discuss availability. We have existing well-established procedures set up with our local university partners to manage this placement finding process and there is no need for students to approach the Student Support Team directly.

