**One Minute Guides:**



**Social Work England November 2023**

**Social Work England’s Role.**

Social Work England (SWE) is a specialist body taking a new approach to regulating social workers in their vital roles.

From December 2019, SWE took over the regulation of social workers in England from the Health and Care Professions Council. Social Work England as an organisation sets standards, holds a register, quality assures education and training and investigates complaints about practice.

Their purpose is to regulate social workers in England so that people receive the best possible support whenever they might need it in life. Bring registered with Social Work England assures the public that social workers meet the professional standards of what people can expect from social workers across appointments, registration, education and training and fitness to practise.

The professional standards are specific to social workers on the register and apply to social workers in all roles and settings. Social workers are required to uphold six professional standards. These are the core standards that social workers must know and understand as part of their role, to maintain their registration.

**Social Work Registration**

It is a legal requirement that all social workers apply to renew their registration on an annual basis, by 30th November, if they wish to practise social work and use the protected title of ‘social worker’. If this is not completed, they risk being removed from the register and can no longer practise.

If they do not apply to renew, their registration will lapse, and they will be required to restore their registration if they wish to continue to practice as a social worker. It can take around 20 days for SWE to review an application to restore. In order to practise, social workers will need to apply to restore, pay a restoration fee and be accepted back onto the register. Applying to renew is an annual process which takes place from Friday 1 September until Thursday 30 November.

. Professional standard 4 is about CPD.

Applying to renew is an annual process which takes place from Friday 1 September until Thursday 30 November. To renew their registration with Social Work England and to continue to practise as a social worker, all social workers must complete the following actions:

* Record CPD on their online account by 30 November 2023.

Recording CPD is a mandatory requirement for all registered social workers, including those not currently working, or on extended leave (such as maternity or sick leave).

To meet the CPD requirements, social workers must record a minimum of 2 different pieces of CPD. They must include a peer reflection with at least one of these pieces of CPD.

We recommend social workers record CPD regularly as good practice. Guidance on how and what to record, including videos, is available from the [Social Work England website](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fserver.smartmailer.tractivity.co.uk%2Flink.aspx%3Fq%3D2022%257cfXycXsJpyM0ozyIVQbSoH6LScOOikW8ATd%252bn4M%252fWLWHU1p%252fqTqK5l0G6q9cHUG4fOggQsExUiLml%252bCQQn4fvUTO67TY3%252bIlOZ5%252fy8BaKdEdF3R5Lua3fbQ8FTaFuly6VHQy2uJBbrOq7QbI4yRk1hD6gBCSFiA2nVvLjYk9mBpZMmY3ShNo2M6TQc4KiOCYyO7mTX9zbMhNPxvO3uH7m08zOGjelBydA9GcfzRAzjXWXWmX1w1qIHYx7W0t4RZt8E7%252beJTQjApKAXW4rxkG5wonM6o5pyD5Rfu35jAfXdXe8TShb%252bzdNrCJ7p96DTigRIg2DMQuedpAiIsYar3%252frv%252bTtDMY%252fsDYGPsWZw2CMOZKRRR6E9Pr8qyiYOihQhCpXMLCBABvwkWrmZ%252bypaEp5%252f8AKrL8cs2C7SNWp%252fdHkQQHxFMgkaAIGFVbpzPUK7UB9&data=05%7C01%7CMax.Edwards%40kent.gov.uk%7C61b2c11c63bc4ca8969d08dbad2f9024%7C3253a20dc7354bfea8b73e6ab37f5f90%7C0%7C0%7C638294192016493782%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=y0z9OFd0kc6oKRdZUucIHT5b4%2BtQ6OrZPPt3DAqs9tA%3D&reserved=0).
* Apply between 1 September and 30 November 2023 to renew their registration.

This is a legal requirement for social workers to continue to use the protected title ‘social worker’. If a social worker does not apply to renew, record CPD and pay their registration fee before 30 November 2023, they risk being removed from the register and can no longer practise. In order to practise, they will need to apply to restore, and be accepted back onto the register. The current restoration fee is £135.

 More information about renewal can be found at the [Social Work England website](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fserver.smartmailer.tractivity.co.uk%2Flink.aspx%3Fq%3D2022%257co3ekAfW5y%252fxJCofqgD4rDj%252bubhA%252b4QTHeEAXA%252fIxkt%252fXkPpmW0xd17azgRu%252fKizq3GEP9iKHXgXvauUyEbPkEgxyQid6Ux6tubAWsw0VSpvYSUJ8UGqACVP2xgj2R7gdqsHKbPCLrpZuTaobCnmIb%252fWvCWbluxE10PmXk4PfF1BhWfv%252fiecKcSoNdYqPCdDk3x564063qyrtpltxz6a6v%252bpKYlHZBIT%252bH0WV69BDeF3MrB54gvy0ykA07xLzl%252fsWd9lkgRJt31PPZioALb5pGbkCDlXyCUK82IZantzdmoRiLlaFFiHAdjrwT7OawP%252fEYk8n%252bDD%252bUFyV%252blx5uXy8HZlff03ApOTLA0VJC7%252bbaER4RMA0pFDVxQVyDK2L4KOogbQvyYR7m3%252ffmWvmVGEt5F0EemqRoB1f4Gd4fmz%252brTvzO9XqFLrjjFnyGlnIeC%252bS&data=05%7C01%7CMax.Edwards%40kent.gov.uk%7C61b2c11c63bc4ca8969d08dbad2f9024%7C3253a20dc7354bfea8b73e6ab37f5f90%7C0%7C0%7C638294192016493782%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZOa9mNp5U%2BkPOouqFwpT7ri0Y5%2FFztN6G0szk%2FoB%2BjA%3D&reserved=0).

**Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**

Professional standard 4 is about CPD. To renew their registration with Social Work England and to continue to practise as a social worker, social workers are reminded they must use their online account to complete all actions of the registration renewal process. They need to

* Submit their registration renewal application form.
* Pay their registration fee.
* Record a minimum of 2 different pieces of continuing professional development (CPD). They must include a peer reflection with at least one of these pieces of CPD. There is also the facility to upload attachments – this could be anonymised minutes of a meeting that you have attended which has enhanced your practice or more traditional training type evidence. Recording CPD is a fundamental requirement for continued registration to practise as a social worker. Social workers who have been on any extended leave, including unpaid, maternity, paternity, adoption, or sick leave, still need to complete CPD.

It is recommended that social workers record CPD regularly as good practice. Guidance on how and what to record, including videos, is available from the Social Work England website.

**Fitness to Practise**

All social workers registered in England are expected to meet and uphold professional standards throughout their registration. [SWE Professional Standards](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.socialworkengland.org.uk%2Fstandards%2Fprofessional-standards%2F&data=05%7C01%7CChristine.Stanbridge%40kent.gov.uk%7C18b0cef8030b4c8c11ef08db55526299%7C3253a20dc7354bfea8b73e6ab37f5f90%7C0%7C0%7C638197584540871129%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PgGnCucP%2FzeX3TzrBoRpX3apWoCemEyFpfGRLAlRQjM%3D&reserved=0)

These standards are specialist to the social work profession and are necessary for safe and effective practice. Social workers are required to uphold six professional standards. These are the core standards that social workers must know and understand as part of their role, to maintain their registration.

* Promote the rights, strengths and wellbeing of people families and communities.
* Establish and maintain the trust and confidence of people.
* Be accountable for the quality of my practice and the decisions I make.
* Maintain my continuing professional development.
* Act safely, respectfully and with professional integrity.
* Promote ethical practice and report concerns.

Sometimes, as an organisation, in collaboration with the regulatory body Social Work England (SWE), there is a need to investigate concerns about the conduct, character, competence and health of social workers as part of our role to protect the public, maintain confidence in the profession and promote high standards of professionalism. This is known as a person’s ‘fitness to practise’.