

Practice Development Educator (PDE) Guidance FAQs

These FAQ's will be updated on a regular basis please check the website for the latest version.

1. How do we ensure that PDEs maintain their capability and currency of skills and knowledge?

A: Employers and HEIs (where appropriate) are encouraged to work in partnership to develop mechanisms to ensure that PDEs maintain their currency and capability. This would include taking responsibility for the assessment, supervision and/or teaching of a registered social worker on a development pathway every two years.

2. Is the PDE a role or a status?

It could be both, employers may wish to designate staff as having practice development educator status or having met PDE currency. Organisations may also wish to create full time or part time specialist PDE roles.

3. Should any social work manager who provides professional supervision to registered social workers be able to demonstrate the PDE?

They may wish to work towards the PDE outcomes as part of their CPD and their employer's commitment to the quality of supervision in line with the Employer Standards

4. How can we use the PDE guidance within our organisation?

It can be used as a CPD development tool, to assess capability and/or for career development purposes; some practice examples will be available, demonstrating how organisations have implemented the practice educator guidance.

5. Why do we need PDE guidance when we already have PEPS?

PEPS was designed as a response to enhancing the quality of support for student social workers. PDE guidance has been designed to describe best practice in supporting, assessing and teaching registered social workers. Some managers may not wish to assess student social workers and will therefore not be able to attain PEPS. However, most will be supervising social workers and so potentially will be able to meet the evidence for PDE.

6. What is the role of PDE in assessment?

This is very clear for ASYE and AMHP where final or summative assessment is required. But all PDEs should have a role in assessment for learning, development, appraisal and performance review (formative assessment). A PDE programme is very relevant to support managers' development in these areas.