

UNIT SPECIFICATION				
<b>Unit title</b> <b>RISK ASSESSMENT AND DECISION MAKING IN PRACTICE</b>				
<b>Level</b>	Level 6	<b>Credit value</b>	20 (10 ECTS)	
<b>Is this a common unit?</b>		No	<b>Expected contact hours for unit</b>	24
<b>Pre and co-requisites</b> None				
<b>Aims</b> Risk assessment and decision making is at the heart of professional practice in health and social care. The need to balance risk, choice and rights with protection and autonomy, whilst minimizing potential harm and maximizing wellbeing requires a high level of professionalism and an ability to think critically and analytically. This unit has been designed to support students in developing skills and knowledge in risk assessment and decision making in order to equip them to meet the challenges of working in increasingly complex situations and to ensure that their practice is of the highest standard.				
<b>Intended learning outcomes (ILOs)</b> Having completed this unit the student is expected to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate a critical understanding of concepts of risk, risk assessment and risk management in the context of professional practice in health and social care</li> <li>2. Demonstrate the ability to think critically about the role of theories of decision making in developing professional judgments in contemporary health and social care practice.</li> <li>3. Demonstrate an ability to evaluate the theoretical frameworks, research, policy, legal and ethical contexts, and how they contribute to their own risk and decision making practice in complex situations.</li> </ol>				
<b>Learning and teaching methods</b> The taught component uses a variety of methods building on students' professional experience, skills and knowledge. Learning and teaching methods include lectures, discussion groups, reflection on practice and guided independent study. Unit guides and specific reading materials enable students to continue in the professional development of their existing knowledge base and maximise opportunities to advance their professional practice. Core text, and encouragement to read widely, will also provide foundation knowledge for students to analyse and advance their professional practice. Bournemouth University's online learning resources will be used for student learning and support				
<b>Assessment</b>				
<b>Formative assessment/feedback</b> Formative feedback will be provided when the students present their case study, assignment plan and research findings to the group on day three. Students with individual/ additional needs will be encouraged to contact the unit lead via e-mail to arrange a 1 to1 meeting.				
<b>Summative assessment</b> ILOs 1-3 will be assessed by coursework (100%)			<b>Indicative assessment</b> All learning outcomes will be assessed by an assignment equivalent to 3000 words.	

**Indicative unit content**

- Developing shared understandings of risk
- Evaluation of Risk assessment models
- Evaluation of Risk management models
- Social, political, cultural context of risk assessment and decision making in health and social care
- The language and discourse associated with risk and decision making
- Naturalistic and actuarial models of decision making, including decision trees.
- Ethical issues in risk and decision making
- Application of models to current professional practice
- Defensible decision making

**Indicative learning resources**

## Reading List

Banks, S. 2006. *Ethics and values in social work*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillian.

Beckett, C. and Maynard, A. 2012. *Values and Ethics in Social Work: An Introduction*. London: Sage Publications.

Brammer, A.K. 2015. *Social Work Law*. Longman

Calder, M.C. 2008. *Contemporary Risk Assessment in Safeguarding Children*. Lyme Regis: Russell House Publishing.

Carson, D and Bain, A. 2008. *Professional Risk and Working with People. Decision making in Health, Social Care and Criminal Justice*. London: Jessica Kingsley.

Hothersall, S. J. & Maas-Lowit, M. 2010. *Need, Risk and Protection in Social Work Practice*. Exeter: Learning Matters.

Ife, J. 200) *Human Rights and Social Work: Towards Rights-Based Practice*. Australia: Cambridge University Press.

Mandelstam, M. 2009. *Safeguarding vulnerable adults*. London: Jessica Kingsley.

Munro, E. 2008. *Effective child protection. 3rd Ed*. London: Sage Publications

O' Sullivan, T. 2010. *Decision making in social work*. London: Macmillan.

Pollack, S. 2010. Labelling Clients 'Risky': Social Work and the Neo-liberal Welfare State, *British Journal of Social Work* 2010 40: 1263-1278.

Taylor, C. and White, S. 2006. Knowledge and reasoning in social work: educating for humane judgement. *British Journal of Social Work*, 36, 937-954

Van de Luitgaarden, G.M. 2009. Evidence based practice in social work: lessons from judgment and decision making theory. *British Journal of Social Work*, 39, 243-260

Wilkinson I. 2010. *Risk, Vulnerability and Everyday Life*. Abingdon: Routledge.

## Journals

- British Journal of Social Work
- Child and Family Social Work
- Child Welfare
- Journal of Learning Disabilities
- Journal of Social Work Practice

<b>Unit number</b>		<b>Version number</b>	1.1	<b>Date effective from</b>	Sep 2019
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