



## Practice Educator Mentor /Assessor Support in Greater Manchester

[BASW PEPS refresh guidance \(2022\)](#) states that... **A Practice Educator (PE) Mentor** is 'a registered social worker qualified to PEPS stage 2 who will develop skills and knowledge of the Trainee PE during the process of undertaking the Practice Educator Professional Standards. The Practice Educator (PE) Assessor may also fulfil this role. It is expected that a PE Mentor should provide at least six supervision sessions to the Trainee Practice Educator during PEPS 1 and 2. If this is a separate role to the PE, it is expected there will be close working and sharing of feedback about the progress of the Trainee PE. The mentor will not be making a final assessment of the Trainee PE.

**A Practice Educator (PE) Assessor** is 'a registered social worker qualified to PEPS stage 2 who will be responsible for assessing the Trainee PE against the Values Statements and PEPS Domains; this includes undertaking the direct observations of the Trainee PE and writing assessments for their progression on the PEPS course. This person will also need to feedback and counter-sign the Trainee PE assessment of a learner in Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the PEPS. If this is carried out in a separate role to the PE Mentor, it is expected there will be close working and sharing of feedback about the progress of the Trainee PE.

In the spirit of the PEPS Refresh and guidelines, the GMSWA have agreed how Trainee PEs in the region will be supported and assessed. This will involve a combination of the following:

1. Organisational Support
2. GMSWA Support - CPD and Drop In/Group Supervision
3. PEPS Assessment Panel

### 1. Organisational Support

The PE's employing organisation will provide a PE mentor to offer one-to-one and/or group support as below:

- i. **Meeting** (approximately 1.5 hour) before or during first half of the placement. The aim will be to discuss the PE's expectations/experience of the student's placement. If appropriate, they may discuss the PE focus for their direct observation, agree timescales for the completion and sharing of the relevant paperwork and agree how student feedback will be obtained and given to the PE after the observation. They may also consider the PEPS Domains and how they might be demonstrated.
- ii. **Direct observation of PE's supervision session with the student/learner** (approximately 1.5 hours) N.B. Write up of observation by mentor/observer (approximately 4-5 hours)
- iii. **Direct observation feedback** In this meeting the date for the PE to send the student's final report for the PE mentor to read, will also be arranged.
- iv. **Reading the PE's final student assessment report and giving feedback prior to its submission.** This will usually be carried out by the same Stage 2 PE/mentor who has undertaken the observation.
- v. **Ad hoc support as required** The organisation will be responsible for identifying a named stage 2 qualified PE, who may also be the placement lead/coordinator, who the PE can contact, if they have questions or concerns about the student's progress or conduct. This person would support and advise the PE and may also contact the university tutor to discuss concerns, as required.
- vi. **Informal support within the organisation** The PE's line manager and experienced PEs within the team may also offer support and guidance throughout the placement. PEs will be supported to undertake CPD activities, which must be evidenced in their portfolio, and will share the responsibility for identifying and meeting their own learning needs.

## **2. GMSWA Support - CPD and Drop In/Group Supervision sessions**

The GMSWA offer below, CPD masterclasses and Drop-in sessions, are facilitated and led by experienced PEs. In this way, these opportunities offer group supervision support, as well as opportunities for PEs to meet peers. Attendance at these sessions can also contribute to the CPD requirement across Stage 1 and 2 (70 hours).

Trainee PEs are expected to attend at least 2 PE drop in / group supervision sessions.

<b>Stage 1 PE Training Programme</b>	<b>Stage 2 PE Training Programme</b>	<b>Refresher Programme</b>
Online (27hrs) + Workshop (6hrs) + Self Directed (2hrs) study = 35 Hours	Online (6hrs) + Workshop (4hrs) + Self Directed Study (1hr) = 11hrs	Open to PE returning to Practice Education.
<b>Additional PE CPD Opportunities</b>		
<b>Masterclasses</b> <b>Add link here to book</b>	<b>Practice Education Drop In/ Group Supervision sessions.</b>	<b>Annual Practice Educator Conference.</b>
11 Practice Educator Topics, running repeatedly throughout the academic year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reflective Supervision</li><li>• Preparation for Stage 1 portfolios</li><li>• Preparation for Stage 2 portfolios</li><li>• Induction</li><li>• Report Writing for PE's</li><li>• Linking the PCF and SWE standards</li><li>• Linking Theory to Practice</li><li>• Supporting BAME students on placement</li><li>• Working with Individual Difference</li><li>• Direct Observations</li><li>• Supporting Struggling Students.</li></ul>	5 Sessions open to all PEs, facilitated by a HEI and LA Stage 2 PE representative.  PEs are asked to add to the agenda on registering.  <b>Trainee PE are expected to attend x2 of these sessions.</b>	GMSWA hosts a full day PE Conference, which includes keynote speakers and workshops focussing on Practice Education. This also offers GM PEs networking opportunities with peers.

PE CPD opportunities can also include: taking part in university selection and moderation processes, informal discussions with the line manager, mentor, colleagues and other practice educators.

## **3. PEPS Assessment Panel**

The GM PEPS assessment panel is made up of experienced Stage 2 practice educators. This panel's role is to assess the PE's portfolio, against the Practice Educator Values Statements and PEPS Domains 2022, at Stage 1 or 2. The panel representative assessing the portfolio, will write a brief report giving clear feedback on the strengths and development recommendations for the PE. This report will be shared with the trainee PE's organisational Learning and Development lead to enable further direction, support and training, as required.

The GMSWA host quarterly PEP review meetings, where members of the PEPS assessment panel meet to share good practice and discuss issues arising from the panels. These meetings enable identification of areas of PE practice development, which drive continuous improvement in the GMSWA Practice Educator training and assessment offer.