Practice Matters

Use of practitioners who are not social work qualified / registered within social care

What practitioners do we have who are not social work qualified / registered?

Within our teams we have a number of practitioners (e.g. Community Care Workers) who are not social work qualified / registered.

These practitioners have families co-allocated to them alongside Social Workers or Practice Supervisors, they work directly with children and families, and can undertake many of the case work tasks that are not specifically reserved for social workers.

Why we need practitioners who are not social work qualified / registered?

Alternatively qualified practitioners add a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience into our teams, and are often the best ones to complete key pieces of work with children and their families.

How / where practitioners not social work qualified / registered can be used in **front line social work teams**

* All cases allocated to a practitioner not social work qualified / registered should have a named Social Worker or Practice Supervisor allocated to the case.
* Practitioners not social work qualified / registered do not undertake single assessments, though they may contribute to the work a social worker is completing as part of the assessment.
* Practitioners not social work qualified / registered may be co-allocated cases with a social worker at the end of the assessment period or during the period of child in need if deemed appropriate by the Practice Supervisor and/or the Team Manager.
* The allocated Practice Supervisor or Social Worker will chair the child in need meetings and have oversight of the progression and impact of the plan.
* If a revised single assessment is required during a child in need period, then a social worker will complete this.
* Practitioners not social work qualified / registered will attend the weekly child in need improvement cycle meetings to talk about the progress of their child in need cases with their team and these meetings are chaired by the Practice Supervisor.
* Practitioners not social work qualified / registered will receive monthly supervision from the Practice Supervisor and all co-allocated cases will be reviewed.
* A pilot is currently underway in Erewash to develop a framework for case holding by alternatively qualified staff in frontline social work teams. The results of which will inform practice developments in the future.