BA Social Work

Brendan Wood
3 Year degree course

• Current version has been running since September 2013 (our first graduates completed the programme in 2016).

• Students now assessed against the Professional Capabilities Framework
Further changes

• Higher tariff entry level now

• Smaller size (45 in Year 1)

• Course will be part of the South Yorkshire Teaching Partnership from April 2018
Our students

• High number of local students

• Likely to live and subsequently work in the South Yorkshire area (not everyone fits this stereotype!!)

• Employability is excellent (and we expect this to improve with smaller numbers)
The Content - Year 1

Semester 1 -

Readiness for Social Work 1 (introduces students to using research, evidence and literature to understand and develop practice - basic safeguarding)

Psycho-Social Studies (introduces students to basic theories that derive from psychological and sociological approaches)

And inter-professional module within this semester
The Content - Year 1

- Semester 2
- The People We Work With (introduces the various groups of people we might work with in practice)

- Social work Law, Policy and Practice (includes brief intro to benefits work as well as key law and policy)

- Readiness for Social Work 2 (covers professional values and ethics, and how to evaluate learning against the 9 domains of the PCF)
The Content - Year 2

• Semester 1
• First Placement

• Ethical Decision Making - using Analysis, Evidence and Values (a new module running for the first time in Autumn 2017 - aim is to enhance students level of 'criticality')
The Content - Year 2

• Semester 2
• Social Work Practice with Children, Young People and Families

• Social Work Practice with Adults

(Both modules build on practice experience and look in greater depth at current practice - aim is to draw out the complexities of practice)

And inter-professional module within this semester
The Content - Year 3

• Semester 1

• Final Placement

And inter-professional module within this semester
The Content - Year 3

• Research for Social Work Practice (students choose what to explore and receive individual tutor support for this larger piece of work that ends their course)

• Developing Critical Practice in Social Work (this includes the bridge to practice with students assessing themselves against the Knowledge and Skills Statements as a prelude to employment)
Underlying Pedagogy of the course

• A Spiral curriculum which builds on previous learning and knowledge

• Concept of 'scaffolding'

• Theories of Adult Learning important here (e.g. range of learning activity)
Some further key points

Students have many sources of support

• Personal tutor in each year
• Student support officer (pastoral support)
• Academic support through library services
• Additional 'disability support' for additional learning needs
It's our course

• We are all participants and stakeholders in our course

• Students, Tutors, Practice Educators, Agencies, Employers

• Development needs to be continual and built upon our collective discussions