

Resources to support your learning

There is a wealth of research and information to discover and explore as you develop your professional identity and understanding of your social worker role. We have highlighted some resources below that may help to get you started on your continuous professional learning journey. Please dip in as is useful.

We have also included resources relevant to completing the learning activity.

Additional resources are highlighted in the various social work CPL pathways on the CPL website and through your work setting.

1. Ethics, values and rights-based practice
Intersectionality and anti-discriminatory practice
Watch Prof Peter Hopkins explain ‘What is intersectionality?’
Listen to Kimberle Crenshaw describe the analogy she uses to explain intersectionality.
Read Scottish Government (2022) Using intersectionality to understand structural inequality in Scotland: evidence synthesis
Read SASW (2021) Racism in Scottish Social Work: a 2021 snapshot
Explore Research in Practice (2019) Developing cultural competence tool
Read the Mental Welfare Commission’s report on LGBT inclusive mental health services
Read the Community Care article ‘Culturally sensitive social work is about more than meeting social care needs’
Listen to IRISS podcast ‘The relationship between social work and Gypsy/Traveller communities’
Read the research article ‘Trans voices in social work research: what are the recommendations for anti-oppressive practice that includes trans people?’
Read Iriss Insights 37 Parents with learning disabilities
Read How can social workers tackle unconscious bias? (communitycare.co.uk)
Rights-based practice
Scottish Human Rights Commission training resource ‘Care about Rights’.
Scottish Government Guidance ‘Children’s Rights and the UNCRC in Scotland: An Introduction’

NHS Scotland Academy Cultural humility digital resource
Iriss Insights 74 Social work's relationship with the PREVENT duty
Applying knowledge of social inequality and systemic oppression
Read Scottish Government (2021) Intersectionality: revealing the realities of poverty and inequality in Scotland
Make yourself aware of Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) work
Read the Anti-Poverty Action Guide for Social Work (BASW, 2019)
2. Communication, engagement and relationship-based professional practice
Trauma-informed practice
Access learning resources on the National Trauma Training Programme Level
Scottish Government's Trauma-Informed Practice: Toolkit
Read Iriss: Trauma Informed Approaches-A critical overview
Communication, engagement and empowerment
IRISS podcast 'Language in social work'
IRISS Insight 'Spoken language interpreters on social work'
Rewriting Social Care Blog 'Professional' language
Reports 'My Support My Choice – People's Experiences of Self-Directed Support and Social Care in Scotland'
IRISS Evidence Summary 'Collaborative practice to support adults with complex needs'
Read IRISS article ' Recording practice and accessing records '
Read article ' The Dos and Don'ts of Case Recordings '
Relationship-based practice
Iriss Insight "relationship based practice: emergent themes in social work"
Practising relationship-based social work' : Resources and tools

3. Critical thinking, professional judgement and decision making

Critical thinking and analysis

Read Community Care [article by Chris Dyke](#) 'Why a chronology should be the first thing you do in an assessment.'

Listen to Helpful Social Work [Podcast](#) 'Assessment' parts 1 and 2

Watch Social Work Student Connect [Webinar](#) 'Assessment: some theory and practice, but mostly experience'

Undertake IRISS [Online Course](#) 'Writing analysis in social care'

IRISS FM [Podcast](#) with Duncan Helm 'Making sense of child and family assessment'.

Decision making

Read and reflect on IRISS [report](#) 'Decision making and social work in Scotland: the role of evidence and practice wisdom.'

Read the SSSC learning [resource](#) 'Making better decisions'

4. Promoting wellbeing, support and protection

Child protection

Become familiar with the [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland](#), as well as local guidance and procedures.

Explore the [Safe & Together Model](#)

Read about [Honour-based violence and interventions and FGM](#)

Read IRISS [Outline](#) 'Parental substance misuse and social worker intervention'

Watch [celcis webinar recordings](#) on child criminal exploitation

Adult support and protection

Access and read information from: <https://www.actagainstharm.org/>

['Social Work Services and Recovery from Substance Misuse: a review of the evidence'](#) 2011

Read the [National Suicide prevention action plan](#): every life matters.

Undertake Domestic Abuse Awareness Raising Tool (DAART) training.
Explore The Caledonian System
Read about Honour-based violence and interventions
Read ' The art of conversation: A guide to talking, listening and reducing stigma around suicide '
Scottish Government 2023 Victims/survivors of domestic abuse - multi-agency risk assessment and interventions: report
5. Working with complexity in unpredictable and ambiguous contexts
Managing risk
Complete the SSSC Making better decisions and a risk worth taking resources
Read Iriss resource on risk
Explore the Contextual Safeguarding research programme resources and podcasts
Working with conflict
Complete the TURAS elearning 'Managing Conflict' and reflect on what you have learned.
Community Care article 'Dealing with conflict at work'
Social Work Student Connect webinar 'Social Work and Conflict'
Harry Ferguson et al (2020) article in Journal of Social Work Practice 'Hostile relationships in social work practice'
Frontline Approaching challenging conversations in social work practice
Research in Practice (2023) Supporting difficult conversations in social care
Professional curiosity and challenge
Undertake some of the exercises on using the GRRAAACCEESSS and LUUUUTT models to explore in your supervision.
Research in Practice Professional curiosity in safeguarding adults
Iriss Insight 66 Understanding noncompliance
Iriss Decision making and social work in Scotland: The role of evidence and practice wisdom

6. Use of knowledge, research and evidence in practice
Using evidence to inform practice
Complete the SSKS Knowledge and Evidence Champion Badge.
Complete IRISS Tool 'Navigating Evidence'
IRISS Report 'Decision making and social work in Scotland: The role of evidence and practice wisdom'
Applying knowledge of approaches and interventions
Access learning resources on the National Trauma Training Programme Trauma Skilled
Attachment theory in practice Iriss
ACES and Attachment
Self-directed Support Practitioner Toolkit 2024
Community care Attachment knowledge and practice hub – Children's (ccinform.co.uk)
7. Self-awareness and reflexivity
Resilience and wellbeing
IRISS Insight 'Creating a culture of resilience for social workers'
IRISS, Social Work Scotland and SSSC ' Resilience resources for social work and social care workers '
Critical reflection and reflexivity
Social Work England article 'The vital role of social work supervision' Rachael Jennings (2020)
Research in Practice ' Reflective supervision: Resource pack '
Ravalier et al (2023) ' A Rapid Review of Reflective Supervision in Social Work ' The British Journal of Social Work
NISCC Reflective practice: A model for supervision and practice in social work
National Wellbeing Hub resource 'Refill your own cup'

8. Professional leadership

Professional identity

Leading to Change [vlog](#) 'Allyship: Understanding and contributing effectively to an inclusive workplace'

[SSSC Codes of Practice for Social Service Workers](#)

SSSC [Open Badges](#) '23 Things Leadership'

Summary of [Newly Qualified Social Workers Conference 2018](#) 'Building the Future: Shaping our Social Work Identity'

Leadership

Complete the [Frontline Worker Leadership Capability Feedback Tool](#) and [leadership capabilities workbook](#)

<https://stepintoleadership.info/>