



Guidance

1. Guidance: NAAS – national assessment and accreditation system

Published 19 June 2019

Contents

[Overview](#)

[Assessment](#)

[Development of the programme](#)

[Eligibility](#)

[Participation](#)

[Fairness and equality](#)

[Expectations for employers](#)

[Contact](#)

Overview

NAAS is the national assessment and accreditation system for:

- child and family practitioners
- practice supervisors

NAAS is designed to:

- enhance social workers' knowledge and skills
- create a national standard of practice in relation to the [post-qualifying standards: knowledge and skills statements\(KSS\)](#)
- help social workers gain a better understanding of their practice
- prompt employers to review how they support social workers

Programme development

NAAS was developed with social workers and academics. The programme will be evaluated using independent research.

More information on [fairness](#) is available.

Assessment

The assessment is made up of 3 parts, including a:

- [practice endorsement](#) process
- [knowledge assessment](#)
- simulated practice assessment

The assessment:

- happens over one day at an assessment centre
- lasts about 4 hours
- takes place at an assessment centre that social workers select themselves

All questions in the assessment will be based on the KSS.

Guidance on what to expect in the [NAAS assessment day](#) is available.

[Example questions](#) for practitioners and practice supervisors are available to help candidates prepare for the knowledge assessment.

[NAAS simulated practice assessment: examples](#) for practitioners and practice supervisors are available to help candidates prepare for the simulated practice assessment.

Outcome of the assessment

We'll let social workers know the outcome of their assessment after 30 working days.

Social workers will get feedback on how they did in their assessment so they can continue to develop their practice.

Unmet outcome

Social workers may get an 'unmet' outcome if they're unsuccessful in the assessment.

Following an unmet outcome, social workers should:

- discuss feedback from the assessment with their manager
- identify areas that need further development
- agree with their line manager whether they'd like to retake the assessment

Social worker may only need to retake one part of the assessment depending on their feedback.

Development of the programme

NAAS is currently in the second phase of development.

A list of the participating local authorities and trusts who are currently [early adopters of NAAS](#) is available.

Findings from the independent evaluation, which will be published at the end of phase 2, will inform how NAAS is rolled out nationally.

Eligibility

The programme is currently open to qualified child and family social workers in selected local authorities and trusts.

Social workers who want to volunteer for accreditation should talk to their manager to decide whether they're ready.

Participation

NAAS is a voluntary programme. Social workers do not have to participate in NAAS and their registration as social workers will not be affected.

Fairness and equality

We developed the NAAS programme content and assessment standards with a wide and representative group of social workers across England.

The questions used in the knowledge assessment were evaluated by independent experts to make sure NAAS accreditation is:

- fair
- does not disadvantage certain groups of social workers

We'll track and evaluate fairness using independent research.

Independent research

We'll use independent research to evaluate:

- the practice endorsement process so far
- how effective phases 1 and 2 of the roll out has been
- the level of support different sites need
- how assessment affects social workers

This research will tell us what changes we should make before a national roll out. The research will be published at the end of phase 2.

Expectations for employers

Employers are expected to support social workers who are doing NAAS accreditation by:

- providing high-quality learning and development
- having regular performance conversations

This should be part of the regular learning and development social workers already receive.

Case studies on how social workers are working with their employers to embed NAAS accreditation into their day-to-day practice are available.

Contact

If you have any questions about NAAS, please email: dfc.naas@education.gov.uk

Is this page useful? [Yes](#) [No](#)

[Is there anything wrong with this page?](#)

Prepare for EU Exit

[Prepare your business or organisation for the UK leaving the EU](#)

[Living in Europe after the UK leaves the EU](#)

[Prepare for EU Exit if you live in the UK](#)

[Continue to live in the UK after it leaves the EU](#)

Services and information

[Benefits](#)

[Births, deaths, marriages and care](#)

[Business and self-employed](#)

[Childcare and parenting](#)

[Citizenship and living in the UK](#)

[Crime, justice and the law](#)

[Disabled people](#)

[Driving and transport](#)

[Education and learning](#)

[Employing people](#)

[Environment and countryside](#)

[Housing and local services](#)

[Money and tax](#)

[Passports, travel and living abroad](#)

[Visas and immigration](#)

[Working, jobs and pensions](#)

Departments and policy

[How government works](#)

[Departments](#)

[Worldwide](#)

[Services](#)

[Guidance and regulation](#)

[News and communications](#)

[Policy papers and consultations](#)

[Transparency and freedom of information releases](#)

[Help](#) [Cookies](#) [Contact](#) [Accessibility](#) [Terms and conditions](#)

[Rhestr o Wasanaethau Cymraeg](#) Built by the [Government Digital Service](#)

OGL All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated



© Crown copyright