

# Want to make a difference to the lives of children and families?



Department for Education

## BE THE DIFFERENCE.

Social work with vulnerable children and families is both a challenging and rewarding way to make a huge difference to many.

Now more than ever, being in the social work profession can be life changing for those you support and a real way to positively impact on society.

**STEP UP** ↑  
TO SOCIAL WORK

[www.gov.uk/stepuptosocialwork](http://www.gov.uk/stepuptosocialwork)

**PLAN FOR JOBS**

**#StepUpToSocialWork a hugely rewarding programme and could be your next career.**

Social work is a challenging and rewarding career through which you to make a real difference to the lives of vulnerable children and families and can be life changing for those you support. Social work regularly tests resilience, stamina, and resolve - all of which you will need to succeed.

The **Step Up to Social Work** programme is a unique opportunity to receive support whilst you train for a new career in social work. On the 15-month training programme, you will receive hands-on experience of working in real-life social work teams. Once you've successfully completed the course, you'll be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work, enabling you to apply to register and practice as a social worker.

### The programme covers:

- The full cost of your university tuition fees on the programme
- A tax-free bursary of £21,995 paid over the duration of the programme to support you during your training.

The programme starts in January on alternate years. Applications for the next cohort will be invited in February 2027 via the Government website.

## Entry criteria

We are looking for dedicated individuals who have experience of working with vulnerable children, young people, families or vulnerable adults and who can demonstrate their maturity and emotional resilience. We encourage applications from a diverse range of candidates and aim to have a workforce that represents the society we serve.

## To apply you must have:

- A minimum 2:2 degree qualification (level 6), in any subject (or predicted if you are a final year student).
- GCSEs in English or English Language at grade C or above, or the new grade 4 and above, or an approved equivalent.
- A minimum of 6 months full-time (or equivalent) experience of working with children, young people, families, carers or vulnerable adults, either in a paid or voluntary capacity.
- You will need to show all of your original certificates to us as part of the application and assessment process. If you cannot find these, you can [order replacements online](#).

## Programme Delivery

The programme is delivered locally in a choice of Boroughs including Barking and Dagenham, Bromley, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest. The academic programme is delivered by London Metropolitan University.

