



One Minute Guide Practice Weeks

This guide provides a brief introduction to practice weeks. Over the last 12 months more Local Authority Adults and Children's Services have started to deliver practice weeks. The West Midlands Social Work Teaching Partnership is looking to hold a regional practice week.

What is a practice week?

Practice week is a week dedicated to learning and professional development and the opportunity for senior managers to spend time with front line practitioners.

There are two main approaches to practice week:

- A self-audit by senior leaders within an organisation, which forms part of a quality assurance activity for adults and children's services, with senior managers using this as an opportunity to observe practice and review the quality and consistency of practice;
- A series of events to share learning and best practice across adults and children's services.

Who is practice week for?

Practice week is aimed at the children's and adults social work and social care workforce, and multi agency services.

What is the purpose of practice week?

The purpose of practice week is to contribute to learning, to bring about improvements to service delivery and outcomes for the children, adults and families we work with. Practice week supports and develops the quality and consistency of learning and professional development, embeds and fosters a culture of learning and development and engages with University academics and researchers to share learning and current research.

Practice weeks provide senior leaders with a unique opportunity to hear directly from service users and staff about the work they do, which helps to ensure a high quality of service.

How are practice weeks carried out?

Employers of social workers work with university partners, multi-agency partnerships and the private, voluntary and independent sector to facilitate a range of learning and development opportunities.

Practice weeks use a limited budget and have a high impact. These are delivered through digital platforms such as Zoom or MS teams