**Are you ready to start a new career in child and family social work?**

If you are keen to become a social worker with children, young people and families the Step Up to Social Work programme can offer you a unique opportunity to receive support while you are training to start your new career.

Social work is both a challenging and rewarding career through which you can make a real difference to the lives of vulnerable children and families. You will need to build relationships with families facing difficult times, show a lot of patience and be a good listener. You will also need good observational skills, analytical thinking and sound judgement to make the right decisions and protect children. Social work regularly tests resilience, stamina, and resolve - all of which you will need to succeed. Social work can be life changing for those you support.

Step Up To Social Work is 14-month, full-time training programme for talented graduates and career changers. On the programme, you will receive hands-on experience of working in a real-life social work role through placements in a local authority whilst undertaking your qualification. 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.

In the North East the Step Up to Social Work programme is delivered by a successful partnership of all 12 local authorities and Manchester Metropolitan University. We will be able to support 52 participants across the region on the programme commencing in January 2024.

**When does the programme run?**

Successful applicants will start the programme in January 2024, and complete their training in March 2025. The programme only runs once every two years, dependent on government funding, so if you are interested don’t miss out on your chance to apply!

**What financial support will I receive?**

The Department for Education covers the cost of your university tuition on the programme and provides a tax-free bursary of £19,833 paid monthly over the duration of the programme to support you during your training.

**Can I apply?**

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 that we serve.

To apply will need to have a minimum 2:2 degree qualification (level 6) and GCSEs in English or English Language and Mathematics at grade C or above, or the new grade 4 and above (or an approved equivalent).

**What happens after I complete the programme?**

The North East is a great place to be a social worker. Child and family social workers are in huge demand from local authorities across the region, it is likely that you will find for your social work role very quickly. Starting salaries for newly qualified social workers range from £30,151 to £35,411. During your first year after qualification you will be supported through the Assessed and Supported Year in Employment, and all local authorities invest heavily in ongoing training and support for child and family social workers.

**Where can I get further information?**

You can find out more about the regional programme and register to attend a drop in session here: <https://www.northeastjobs.org.uk/Default.aspx?page=campaign&module=campaign-view&id=427&mode=8>

You can also find out more and apply here: <https://susw.eu-careers.pocketrecruiter.com/>

If you would like to know more about how the programme works in Durham, or opportunities for employment as a social worker on completion please contact Hazel Ostle (Workforce Development Manager) by telephone on 03000 262 306 or by e-mail at hazel.ostle@durham.gov.uk.

**How do I apply?**

You can apply online at: <https://susw.eu-careers.pocketrecruiter.com/>

Applications will close at noon on 23 March and candidates successful at the initial application stage will be invited to a regional assessment centre.

Successful applicants will be required to apply for a Disclosure & Barring Service Enhanced Disclosure.