**Northern Ireland Social Care Council**

## NI Specialist Award in Social Work – Professional in Practice (PiP) Requirements

The NI Specialist Award has Nine PiP Requirements that describe the range of professional activity required within this Award.

1. Apply independent critical judgement to systematically develop their own practice and that of others in the context of the NISCC Standards of Conduct and Practice, professional ethics, the principles of diversity, equality and social inclusion in a wide range of situations;

2. Demonstrate a substantially enhanced level of competence in a defined area of professional practice, professional management, professional education or applied professional research to agreed national, occupational or recognised agency standards;

3. Demonstrate a well-developed capacity of using analysis and evaluation to continuously develop and enhance own performance and contribute to the performance of professional and inter-professional groups, teams and networks;

4. Demonstrate a well-developed capacity to analyse, evaluate and apply relevant and current research evidence including service-user research;

5. Using a range of skills and methods of intervention, work effectively and creatively and with initiative in a context of risk, uncertainty, conflict and contradiction where there are complex challenges.  Make informed and balanced judgements in the context of relevant policy and legislation;

6. Use a critical knowledge and understanding of service user and carers' issues to develop and implement service user and where appropriate carer rights and participation in line with the goals of choice, independence and empowerment;

7. Take responsibility for influencing key aspects of complex change processes, including those involving other professions or other agencies;

8. Support, mentor, supervise or manage others including contributing to practice learning opportunities, enabling self and others to identify and explore issues, improve and develop and share best practice;

9. Develop and implement effective ways of working in networks across organisational and professional boundaries, having confidence in own professional role and taking responsibility for identifying , analysing and resolving complex issues, promoting partnership and collaboration, thus ensuring the delivery of integrated and person-centred services.