

Social Worker

What is it?

A social worker is a professional who helps individuals and families cope with and solve problems in their daily lives. They provide support, advocacy, and intervention services to vulnerable populations, including children and families, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and those experiencing mental health issues or substance abuse problems.

Qualifications/Experience Required:

You will need a degree in social work approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). Some universities offer undergraduate and postgraduate programs in social work, while others may offer conversion courses for individuals with degrees in other fields. Additionally, social workers must undergo supervised practice placements to gain practical experience.

What the Work Involves:

Assessing the needs and circumstances of individuals and families, including conducting interviews, home visits, and gathering information from other professionals.

Developing care plans and interventions to address issues such as child abuse, domestic violence, homelessness, or mental illness.

Providing emotional support, counselling, and practical assistance to clients.

Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

The demand for social workers is expected to remain steady, with opportunities available in various settings, including local authorities, healthcare organisations, charities, and private social service agencies.

Average annual Salary - £25,000 - £40,000

Typical weekly hours – 38 – 47 per week

Type of person who may be suited to this job:

Social work may be suited to individuals who are compassionate, empathetic, and committed to social justice and equality. Social workers need to have strong interpersonal skills, cultural competence, and the ability to build trusting relationships with clients from diverse backgrounds.

Money/Wage Guide:

Entry-level social workers can expect to earn around £25,000 to £30,000 per year.

Senior social workers or those in managerial positions may earn upwards of £40,000 per year.

Related Opportunities:

- Mental health counsellor
- Family support worker
- Probation officer
- Youth worker

Further Information:

British Association of Social Workers (BASW): <https://www.basw.co.uk/>

Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC): <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/>