

# Learning Challenge 2020

## SSSC Open Badges

Take part in the Open Badges Learning Challenge 2020 and end the year with six detailed examples of how you used learning opportunities to improve your practice. This is your opportunity to get Open Badge recognition for almost anything. Unlike our other badges, you get to choose the topic and the sources you use to learn about it.



The Learning Challenge 2020 is open to anyone regardless of whether you are registered with the Scottish Social Services Council. Take part and challenge your colleagues to do the same.

### How do I take part?

Apply for the [Getting started with Open Badges](#) and [Writing evidence for Open Badge applications](#) badges first if you don't already have them. Then submit evidence for each of the [challenge activity badges](#) by 31 December 2020. You'll be able to claim the Challenge Completed badge once all six activity badges have been awarded to you. The activity badges will be yours to keep even if you don't complete all six needed for the challenge.

### What topics can I choose to learn about?

You can choose any topic you want to, but it must be something that will help improve your practice as a social service worker. In choosing a topic you may want to consider:

- learning objectives you already have planned
- discussions you have had with your manager eg supervision
- the [SSSC Continuous Learning Framework \(CLF\)](#).

### Sources of learning

You get to decide how you will learn about your chosen topic. This is very different to other badges where we normally set the learning activities for you.

In making your choice, consider:

- recommendations from your manager, tutor and colleagues
- what learning opportunities you already have planned or might be available to you
- your own interests and learning preferences.

#### Suggestions for learning sources

- |                     |                    |             |                   |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| • Books             | • Journal articles | • Websites  | • Podcasts        |
| • Documentaries     | • Conferences      | • Reports   | • Seminars        |
| • Courses           | • Webinars         | • Shadowing | • Videos          |
| • Lectures          | • Policies         | • Feedback  | • Online learning |
| • Group discussions | • Articles         | • Blogs     | • Role play       |

## Writing about what you learned

Here are a few tips to help you answer the questions you'll be asked in each of the six challenge activity badges. For each, remember to meet or exceed the minimum word count and write entirely in the first person using words like 'I', 'me' and 'my' when describing your learning and practice.

- Q1: Tell us about the topic and learning activity you have chosen.  
(50 words minimum)
  - Clearly state the topic you are learning about.
  - Clearly state what the learning activity or activities were. Include links to these if you can.
  - Explain why you chose this topic and the activity.
  
- Q2: Tell us about three things you learned and why each of these is important to (a) you and (b) the people who use your service.  
(150 words minimum)
  - This is all about focus. Choose what was most important to you.
  - Explain why each of these is important to you.
  
- Q3: Tell us how you will use what you learned in your day to day work to develop and improve your practice as a social service worker.  
(125 words minimum)
  - Focus on what **you** will do.
  - Be specific about the actions **you** will take.
  
- Q4: Tell us what you did to share what you learned with others.  
(25 words minimum)
  - Please don't submit your evidence until you have done this.
  - It doesn't need to be complicated, even a 15-minute discussion with your colleagues is enough.
  - Write about the feedback you received as a result of this discussion.

## Endorsements

Endorsements provide valuable confirmation that other people have witnessed improvements in your practice as a direct result of your learning.

You have three months to get someone to endorse your challenge activity badge once it has been awarded to you. They should be willing to write a statement to confirm they witnessed you use what you learned in your day to day work.

Ideally you should ask your manager or tutor to endorse your badges but if this is not possible then you can ask another suitable person eg a senior member of staff who knows you well.

As well as this, invite your colleagues to endorse your badges too and do the same for them.

### **You are not alone**

Other people, including SSSC staff, are taking the challenge too. You can follow their progress on Twitter using the hashtag #ssscLC20.

Be proud of the badges you achieve and show them to people too. Get your colleagues involved in the challenge and join the conversation on Twitter at #ssscLC20.

If you have questions about the challenge or how to get started, please email them to [sssclearningtech@sssc.uk.com](mailto:sssclearningtech@sssc.uk.com).

### Challenge rules

1. You must choose a learning source that does not already have an SSSC Open Badge assigned to it.
2. You must spend a minimum of two hours learning about the topic. If one source isn't enough to cover this, combine it with others.
3. You must use a range of topics and learning sources across your six challenge activity badges.