

Learning challenge introduction

SSSC MyLearning Open Badges

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Are you ready for the SSSC learning challenge?

Take part and collect a brand-new badge every month.

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.

Challenge benefits:

- Provides Open Badge recognition for topics or activities we don't have badges for.
- Demonstrates your commitment to Continuous Professional Learning (CPL).
- Develops your reflective learning skills.
- Gives feedback on your learning activity as you go and access to our learning challenge community.
- Builds you a portfolio of assessed reflective accounts one step at a time.

How to take part

Taking part is simple. All you need to do is:

- achieve the Participant badge to enroll in the SSSC learning challenge
- apply for the challenge badges, a new one becomes available each month but there is no pressure to apply every single one of these
- select your own topic and find your own learning sources for each challenge badge
- apply for the optional wrap up badges available at the end of each year if you have achieved more than three challenge badges.

Please note: You can't apply for a challenge badge for a month in the past.



How to choose a topic



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

When choosing a topic you should consider:

- learning objectives you've planned
- discussions you've had with your manager
- your strengths and weaknesses
- your latest SSSC MyLearning logs
- recommendations from the latest Care Inspectorate inspection for your service.

Sources of learning

Suggestions for learning sources

- Books
- Documentaries
- Courses
- Lectures
- Blogs
- Videos
- Simulations
- Conferences
- Webinars
- Policies
- Articles
- Podcasts
- Online learning
- Journals
- Websites
- Reports
- Shadowing
- Feedback
- Seminars
- Role play
- Group discussions

Talking about what you learned (your evidence)

Whatever your role and level of experience, we have apps and resources to help you develop your knowledge and skills.

- Write in the first person (I, me and my etc)
- Reflect on what you learned – don't just describe it.
- Explain how you have put this learning into practice in your job.
- Explain how your learning has contributed to and advanced your professional development.
- Minimum (350) and maximum (600) word counts apply to the learning challenge badges.



What is your topic and source?

Q1: Tell us about the topic and learning activity you have chosen.

50 words minimum, 100 words maximum.

- Clearly state the topic you were learning about.
- Clearly state what the learning activities/sources were.
- Explain **why** you chose this topic and the activity.
- Say how long you spent working on this eg “Two hours.”

Question two – What did you learn?

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, 250 words maximum.

- This is all about focus. Choose what was most important to you – don't be tempted to list off learning points or be too descriptive.
- Explain why each of these is important to you.
- Explain the impact your new knowledge might have on the people who use your service, you will need to refer to this when you answer the next question.

Question three – How will you improve your performance?

Q3: Tell us how you will use what you learned to develop and improve your practice as a social service worker.

150 words minimum, 250 words maximum.

- Focus on what **you** will do.
- Be specific about the actions **you** will take or have already taken.
- Explain **why** you decided this was the best course of action.

Templates

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Word interface for a document titled "learning-challenge-template.odt". The ribbon is set to "Home", and the font is Verdana, size 11. The document content consists of three questions, each followed by a prompt to write an answer:

"Q1: Tell us about the topic and learning activity you have chosen. (50 words minimum)"
Write your answer to this question here.

"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)"
Write your answer to this question here.

"Q3: Tell us how you will use what you learned to develop and improve your practice as a social service worker. (150 words minimum)"
Write your answer to this question here.

The status bar at the bottom indicates "Page 1 of 1", "89 words", "English (United Kingdom)", "Text Predictions: On", and "Accessibility: Good to go".

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 **one hour** 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 challenge badges.
4. You must achieve at least three challenge badges in a year to be eligible for an end of year wrap up badge. All wrap-up badges need to be endorsed within 90 days.
5. You can only apply for the current month's challenge badge. Badges for previous months will be closed to both new submissions and resubmissions.

Endorsements

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

- It is **recommended** you get as many of your learning challenge badges endorsed as possible.
- Endorsements should come from people who witness your performance improve eg your manager, supervisor, tutor or mentor.
- **You must get** your end of year wrap up badge endorsed within three months of achieving it.



Help and support



You are not alone. Other people, including SSSC staff, are taking the challenge too.

- Visit the **Learning challenge community** on the SSSC Open Badges forums page. [\(login required\)](#)
- Email **DigitalLearning@sssc.uk.com** with your questions.
- Lookout for our online events and workshops.
- Subscribe to the LearnCast podcast at **learn.sssc.uk.com/podcast**.
- Search for the **#ssscic** hashtag on Twitter.

Thank you

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