

PRACTICE LEARNING HUB

AI in Social Work

Participant Worksheet: Reflection, PAUSE and Practice Scenarios

Intended audience	Social workers, ASYE practitioners, students and educators taking part in the learning session
Use	Complete while watching and during facilitated discussion
Focus	AI literacy, ethics, professional judgement and safe practice
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Version	Version 1.0 Published August 2026 Review due February 2027

Intended use

Use fictional or fully de-identified examples only. Do not write identifiable details about people, families, colleagues or live cases on this worksheet.

This worksheet supports reflection. Local AI, information governance, data protection and recording policies remain central.

Before watching

Where am I currently on AI in social work?

Mostly opportunity

Mostly risk

One AI use in social work that I think could genuinely help:

One risk or question I want to think about more carefully:

While watching

Capture examples of:

Potential benefit	Potential risk / trade-off

PAUSE before AI

Use the five questions below for any AI-assisted practice task.

P - Purpose

What is the actual practice problem? Is AI the right tool, or just the available tool? What should improve for the person or the quality of practice?

A - Approved & accountable

Is the tool approved for this task? What policy applies? Who remains responsible for the final record, assessment or decision?

U - Understand the data

What information would go into the system? Is it personal/special category data? Is all of it necessary? Where will it go and what happens to it?

S - Scrutinise the output

What could be inaccurate, invented, biased, missing or overly confident? How will I verify important content against source evidence?

E - Explain & keep the person central

What does the person need to know? Does AI affect their participation, voice, privacy, relationship with me or ability to challenge what is recorded/decided?

My current boundary

For my role and current employer arrangements, list examples without using live case details.

GREEN - potentially useful / low concern when approved	AMBER - extra checks, context or approval needed	RED - I would not proceed without formal governance / advice

Scenario 1 - The ambient note-taker

Your employer has approved an AI tool that can listen during visits and draft a case note. A person agrees at the start but becomes noticeably quieter once recording begins. A family member later enters and a sensitive disclosure follows. The resulting note sounds fluent and plausible.

Opportunity: what could this improve?

Risk: what could go wrong or be lost?

PAUSE: which questions matter most here, and why?

Scenario 2 - The polished assessment

An employer-approved generative AI assistant helps structure an assessment from de-identified notes. It introduces a confident explanation for missed appointments, changes some of the person's wording and gives less space to strengths and cultural context than expected.

Opportunity: what could this improve?

Risk: what could go wrong or be lost?

PAUSE: which questions matter most here, and why?

Scenario 3 - AI-supported prioritisation

A service is considering AI that summarises referrals and flags cases predicted to need urgent attention. A social worker still makes the final decision, but the score and summary appear prominently at the top of every referral.

Opportunity: what could this improve?

Risk: what could go wrong or be lost?

PAUSE: which questions matter most here, and why?

After discussion

Has my position changed?

Mostly opportunity

Mostly risk

The strongest potential use of AI in my practice is:

The safeguard I think matters most is:

Something I will now check rather than assume:

My next action

One action I will take in the next month - for example checking local policy, discussing a workflow with information governance, testing an approved tool more critically, or completing further learning:

Useful source material

Social Work England: emerging use of AI in social work and professional standards

BASW: Statement on Social Work and Generative Artificial Intelligence

ICO: Guidance on AI and data protection

Always pair these with your employer's current AI and information governance arrangements.