

## The Standards

Each Practice Development Unit must demonstrate:

1. Information on the unit, nature of service it provides and the staff team
2. The reason for seeking accreditation as a development unit and how the team came to this decision
3. A clear philosophy and vision for practice and how this relates to service delivery
4. The unit's action plan and how this supports the organisations overall strategic plan
5. Personal development plans for all staff, that link to the local agenda and identify how learning needs will be achieved, funded and evaluated
6. A clearly identified leadership structure, that ensures:
  - An identified leader with clear responsibility and accountability
  - Clear succession planning
  - Development plans for leadership development within the unit
  - A steering group to support the PDU and its leaders
7. A clearly defined communication structure to ensure effective collaboration and sharing of knowledge within the multi-agency/disciplinary team
8. A clear partnership, with:
  - Service users and carers
  - Other agencies required to provide "seamless" care to the client group
9. How a spirit of enquiry has been developed
10. Explanation of how service delivery is based on sound and critically appraised evidence, and represents best practice and continuing development in light of new evidence
11. Demonstrate which areas of practice have been developed, evaluated and disseminated locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally
12. Demonstrate a clear partnership with an academic department to support research and dissemination of practice.

### The health plan of the organisation supporting the PDU should:

- Demonstrate how the PDU has been incorporated into the strategic plan for the development of services within the organisation
- Show how support for evaluation of practice and the development and dissemination of research activity will be provided
- Demonstrate how the development plans for both practice and leadership will be supported and resourced.

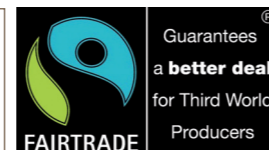
### The submission document for the academic institution supporting the PDU must demonstrate:

- True collaborative working between the PDU and the chosen academic department
- How the department is supporting the development of knowledge and use of evidence based practice within the PDU
- Dissemination of evaluated and evidence based practice through its undergraduate and postgraduate programmes
- Evidence of publication, conference activity and other forms of dissemination.

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# Practice Development Unit accreditation framework

An outline of the Practice Development  
Unit accreditation system

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## Background

The School of Health & Social Care (HSC) has developed a collaborative framework with health and social care providers to advance effective and expert levels of care. This approach is based on an appreciation that health and social care is going through unprecedented change. To establish an effective clinical governance framework there is growing emphasis to explore the evidence for practice and the need for strong interdisciplinary working and learning to provide seamless holistic care to patients.

Practice Development Units (PDUs) are a major focus to support the development of a strategic clinical governance approach. They seek the development and sharing of best practice, effective interdisciplinary team working and learning and give a framework to guide and support development activity within the unit to ultimately improve the care given to patients. PDUs seek excellence, challenging current practice and questioning practitioners to develop services and the current supporting evidence base.

## Accreditation

The two year process of becoming a Practice Development Unit must include all the following:

1. Statement of interest to the School of Health & Social Care
2. Consultancy support by members of the accreditation team
3. Preparation and submission of the PDU application documentation. This must demonstrate how the unit is meeting the standards or have a plan to meet the standards, which have yet to be achieved. This document should also include the action plan for the area and information on how the host organisation are providing support to meet the outcomes of the PDU and how the academic department meet the standards in relation to their partnership with the PDU
4. Health check review of the draft documentation then either a recommendation to submit the full documentation to HSC and hold an accreditation visit or
5. Further development and resubmission of the draft
6. Accreditation visit
7. Results of the accreditation visit.

## Diagram of the two year Accreditation Process

