



2001 CHAPTER 3

PART I

SOCIAL CARE WORKERS

*Training*

**Functions of the Department**

14.—(1) The Department has the function of—

- (a) ascertaining what training is required by persons who are or wish to become social care workers;
- (b) ascertaining what financial and other assistance is required for promoting such training;
- (c) encouraging the provision of such assistance;
- (d) drawing up occupational standards for social care workers.

(2) The Department shall encourage persons to take part in courses approved by the Council under section 10 and other courses relevant to the training of persons who are or wish to become social care workers.

(3) If it appears to the Department that adequate provision is not being made for training persons who are or wish to become social care workers, the Department may provide, or secure the provision of, courses for that purpose.

(4) The Department may, upon such terms and subject to such conditions as it considers appropriate—

- (a) make grants, and pay travelling and other allowances, to persons resident in Northern Ireland in order to secure their training in the work of social care workers;

- (b) make grants to organisations providing training in the work of social care workers.
- (5) Any functions of the Department under this section—
- (a) may be delegated by it to the Council; or
  - (b) may be exercised by any person, or by employees of any person, authorised to do so by the Department.
- (6) Articles 13 to 15 of the [Deregulation and Contracting Out \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1996 \(NI 11\)](#) apply in relation to an authorisation given under subsection (5)(b) as they apply in relation to an authorisation given under Part III of that Order; and in subsection (5)(b) “employee” has the same meaning as in that Order.