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I am delighted to be asked to provide this reference for Fiona Macneill as we have worked together for at least 7 years on a variety of projects but most notably over the past 3 years on the social work student ePortfolio using the Mahara platform.

Fiona pays particular attention to both the student and course needs when supporting and assisting the social work team to solve and unpick problems. This student-centred approach has led the way for the ePortfolio project and the wider use of technology on the social work course. Fiona's focus on the need for usability and clear approach is vital.

As an expert in learning technologies Fiona has trained both staff and students in technology and a variety of useful platforms such as Mahara, Nearpod, One Drive, Turnitin and many others. Fiona always takes a careful and inclusive approach often reminding staff to consider accessibility and data protection issues that may not have been considered.

The ePortfolio system demonstrates the full range of work Fiona worked on with us over 3 years. This supported the unique nature of the social work placement and associated holistic assessment of social work student working within practice. The clear workflow provided by the ePortfolio and Mahara platform allowed staff to assess progress and was rooted in an iterative approach. The ePortfolio enabled staff and placement supervisor, educator colleagues to record the assessment process at key points throughout the life of the student's placement. The Mahara platform also allowed for student feedback and discussion.

Fiona ran workshops with students, staff and work-based learning colleagues to introduce and support the ePortfolio set up and process. Staff were also trained and supported by Fiona to continue the workshops across the course at key times in the academic year.

The ePortfolio was shared by two Universities, University of Brighton and Sussex University, multiple academic tutors across the universities, as well as placement supervisor/s and practice educators from numerous local authorities, private, voluntary and charity organisations hosting social work placements within the local and wider community. A challenging context, that required a creative approach particularly useful during the recent pandemic context.

Fiona is consistently available and responsive to the changing higher education environment and shifting pedagogy. This includes staying on top of trends in technology and responding to student and staff learning styles. Fiona is creative and realistic in her approach, ensuring that student/s are supported alongside acknowledging the professional nature of the BSc

Social Work task. Further examples are the guidance and support Fiona provided for colleagues developing a Viva assessment task with students. This involved clear development of guidance so students could record the viva presentation and supporting academic staff to use key elements of Turnitin to enable assessment and provide feedback.

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