

Here are some points that you need to consider. You should have included some of these in your reflective activity:

- You realise that you made a mistake earlier, when you had the conversation with Bob about Diane. You have now made the best decision available to you, which is to contact your manager to explain what has happened, acknowledging that you should not have had the conversation, but that you are concerned about Bob's behaviour.
- You are now showing that you have some understanding of the SSSC Codes of Practice for Social Service Workers. But you should revisit these codes to make sure that you really understand them.
- It is essential to remember that all social service workers are expected to create and maintain the trust and confidence of people who use services and carers.
- An important part of upholding public trust and confidence in social services is ensuring that you do not abuse the trust of people who use services or carers, or the access you have to personal information about them.
- You must respect confidential information and know your employer's policies on confidentiality. You need to appreciate that service users have the right to expect that they will have their privacy and confidentiality upheld by social service workers in whom they and the public place their trust and confidence.
- You should recognise and use responsibly the power that comes from your work with service users and carers. You are expected to respect and maintain the dignity and privacy of service users. A breach of a service user's confidentiality may put them at risk of harm.
- You must act in a way that demonstrates you are trustworthy and reliable. Through your actions you earn the trust of colleagues, service users and the public. A failure to follow guidelines on confidentiality constitutes a breach of trust.
- Had you not taken the correct action in this situation, it could have called into question your suitability to be a social services worker. Failure to take the right action could have resulted in Diane, her family, or a member of the public making a complaint to your employer.

When Bob began to talk about Diane outside of work, the correct action to take was to tell Bob right away that you should not discuss this further until you both returned to work.