Domains in PCF:

- Professionalism
- Values and ethics
- Diversity
- Rights, justice and economic well-being
- Knowledge
- Context and organisations
- Critical reflection and analysis
- Intervention and skills
- Professional leadership

Limitations of law:

- does not always provide clear direction, set boundaries
- So much is open to interpretation
- Law may not keep pace with practice developments
- Legal language may not be updated
- Gaps in law (e.g. lack of power to intervene in adult protection)
- Law may appear discriminatory (e.g. restrictions of voting rights in Mental Health Act 1983)
- Reactive rather than proactive – reacting to situations that have already occurred, providing remedy, rather than preventing issues.

Key legal concepts:

Confidentiality: Ensure information is only divulged with consent of the person using social work services. Exceptions may be justified on basis of evidence of risk of serious harm.
“Fears about sharing information cannot be allowed to stand in the way of need to protect safety of children.”

Accountability: Social workers are accountable on number of levels – to employer, to service user, to the courts.

Duties and powers: Duty = imposed by law, social worker is obliged to carry it out (a MUST do). Power = element of discretion, provides authority to act in particular way, scope on how to act (a MAY do).

Rights: ranging from moral rights to civil and political, cultural rights and legal rights.

Values: Partnership = work in partnership with service user, not a dictator.
Choice = promote interests of the service user and THEIR right to choose.
Empowerment = support them to improve their circumstances.
ANTI-DISCRIMINATORY, ANTI-OPPRESSIVE PRACTICE.