



Senior Social Worker - Older Person Mental Health.

Salary: Band: 10, £42,838 - £46,141 per annum.

37 hours per week:

Office attendance is required and this remains flexible, subject to business needs.

Location: The Limes, Woodlands Walk, Milton PO4 8GB . Could potentially work across other bases including: The Orchards, Locksway Road, Milton PO4 8FE, Queen Alexander Hospital, Cosham, Portsmouth PO6 3LY.

Portsmouth City Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of 'adults at risk' and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Every post is subject to PCC and Portsmouth Safeguarding Adults Board safer recruitment procedures.

This role requires a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check which will be required prior to any offer of employment and this post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

The Service

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an experienced and motivated Senior Social Worker to be part of a forward-thinking Discharge and Liaison Service within Acute Mental Health Services for Older adults in Portsmouth. You will be part of a Discharge and Liaison Service that is committed to leading and developing innovative ways of ensuring safe, prompt and effective discharges from Acute Mental Health Wards, using Strength Based practice and completing timely community reviews.

As a service we take pride in our work by valuing others, focusing on what's important so that we make a real and positive difference.

What is the role?

In this role, your primary function will be to provide effective liaison and discharge between Hampshire and Isle of Wight Foundation NHS Trust, Inpatient Services and Older Persons Mental Health community Team and Hospital at home team, to ensure safe and effective transitions of care at the point of discharge from in-patient services as well as influencing step down / step up support placements in the community. You will play a primary role in coordinating hospital discharges by assessing clinical and risk information of all patient admissions and working in partnership with service users and their families, staff teams and Adult Social Care. You will seek creative solutions to system problems of patient capacity and flow that will avoid the need for acute Extra Contractual Referrals (ECR) and create early discharge plans reducing delayed transfers of care.



In this post, you will support to lead towards transformation of discharge planning and practice, supporting the development of a health and social care system which provides needs led, financially sustainable and recovery focussed treatment and where required, placement opportunities for patients across the mental health service lines. Completing community reviews in a timely manner.

The role includes outcome led interventions, using a strength-based approach to support people to live the lives they chose. You will be able to work collaboratively with others, maintaining a strength based and aspirational approach to achieve the outcomes the person wants.

Duties include:

- Assessing clients' needs and agreeing a person-centred support plan in line with our statutory duties under The Care Act 2014.
- Completing reviews of assessments and support plans as required.
- Supporting people with their health, mental health, and social care needs by promoting independence.
- Assessing mental capacity when required.
- Lead meetings to ensure clear follow up plans, to ensure actions are taken to achieve agreed discharge plans.
- You will work in creative and personalised ways to provide support and treatments, completing the work directly of value to the service user, ensuring their wishes and outcomes are always sought.
- Work with housing, accommodation, support, and residential care providers to promote a whole pathway approach to supporting and enabling recovery.
- Work collaboratively with ward staff/and community lead professionals to set up effective care packages and develop a robust system of service user involvement ensuring that the views of patients taken into account at all stages of their care, using feedback to improve services.
- Work with the OPMH to promote Personalisation through Direct Payments, and working in partnership with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) to develop and implement Personal Health Budgets (PHB) which will rely on excellent assessment and communication skills and an understanding of health and social care budget splits through S117 agreements.
- Maintain accurate patient notes, client records and care plans, ensuring these are communicated to all partners.
- Develop partnership working with statutory, private and voluntary organisations to ensure the best possible discharge solutions, and where possible bring them into the MDT process at an early stage to avoid Delay in discharge pathways.
- You will contribute to the development of and participation in the delivery of training, education, and reflective learning sessions. To actively engage and facilitate learning for other professionals and students on placement who are shadowing the teams.
- You will complete accurate risk assessments and management plans, involving the service user, carers, and any other individuals relevant to the care of the service user, and to ensure that this is well documented. And communicated. Undertake joint funding matrix assessments and present these at panel.
- You will be fully conversant with statutory legislation and guidance and demonstrate that you implement this in your day-to-day practice.

- You will contribute to service development and project management.
- Maintaining case records efficiently and effectively.
- Working with a wide range of services and agencies, including health, police, housing, residential/nursing home providers, domiciliary care agencies, homeless services, housing and local charities.
- There will be opportunities to support unregistered staff and you will be responsible for your own personal learning and development.
- The safeguarding of adults and children is an important and integral area of your work as will be the implementation of the safeguarding policy and procedures.
- Act in an advisory role to colleagues in the integrated services both ad hoc and within weekly MDTs.
- Supervision as you may be required to supervise registered staff.

Who is the person?

You need:

1. A qualification in social work, e.g. Degree, Dipsw, QCSW, CSS and be registered with Social Work England.
2. Substantial experience of working as a social worker.
3. Experience of working with adults, ideally within a fieldwork setting and working within the sphere of Safeguarding Adults.
4. Experience of working with older people experiencing though this is desirable however have knowledge in mental illness and care pathways for the Adults experiencing acute mental illness, including knowledge of dementia.
5. A thorough understanding and working knowledge of the legislation that governs the Older Persons Mental Health role (Care Act, Mental Health Act, Mental Capacity Act, Human Rights Act) and a comprehensive awareness of practice to safeguard adults and children.
6. Experience of supervising and supporting staff.
7. Robust and comprehensive skills in risk management with a confident ability in assessing, planning, and recording of sensitive information and data.
8. A professional curiosity and the ability to negotiate, work creatively and flexibly with aptitude for innovative decision making.
9. To be able to work independently whilst managing your own caseload.
10. To demonstrate a range of effective communication skills including the ability to converse with a diverse range of people sometimes under challenging circumstances or where there maybe barriers to understanding. In addition you will be communicating with relatives, other professionals and voluntary organisations, encouraging participation in care delivery in line with the recovery model. The ability to converse at ease with customers and provide advice in accurate spoken English is essential for the post.
11. The ability to advocate for individuals and carers using a problem-solving approach as well as good assessment skills.
12. To provide an evidence-based record of agreed interventions ensure strength based approach is practiced.
13. To have a positive approach to motivating others to achieve positive outcomes in relation to rights, choice, independence, and inclusion.

14. Experience of health and social care budgets with working knowledge of assessments and reports required to obtain relevant funding.
15. To be able to form effective relationships with partner agencies to provide effective solutions for people.
16. To have some experience of working within a multi-disciplinary service/setting is desirable.
17. To be committed to working in a multi-disciplinary team and to be part of a supportive working environment and culture.
18. To be responsible for own time management, organisation of workload and personal administration. Be able to work productively in a busy office environment and in response to competing demands and changing priorities.
19. To Identify blocks in the system and contribute to solutions through active problem solving.

You will need to demonstrate that you have the Right to Work in the UK. No post will be offered without it.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Portsmouth City Council is the Data Controller of any personal information you provide when applying for a job. It will only be used in connection with the recruitment process and will not be kept for longer than necessary. For more detailed information you can access the Data Protection Privacy Notice on our [careers portal](#).