**

**Trusted Assessor – Care Homes**

**Introduction:**

Following a period of in-patient care, and prior to an individual's discharge to a Care Home, practitioners are required to undertake a statutory assessment or review to determine eligibility. Additionally, a separate assessment is required for individuals who are discharged into a Care Home setting in order to enable a safe discharge. Currently, a high proportion of Care Homes assess the individual in the hospital setting, using their own assessment tools. However, due to their own capacity and resource issues, this can contribute to delayed discharges.

**Job Purpose:**

The primary responsibility of the Trusted Care Home Assessor is to act as an independent and unbiased assessor on behalf of Care Homes in relation to undertaking assessments to support and facilitate effective and timely discharges from Acute Hospital settings into Care Homes by working effectively with the Social Work and Discharge team whilst remaining independent.

**Job Description:**

1. To work with the South Tees integration partners to develop the Trusted Assessor model to support efficient and safe Care Home admission
2. To support improvements in hospital discharge arrangements from hospital to Residential and Nursing Homes in South Tees, improving patient experience, clinical safety and patient flow
3. To be responsible for developing trusted relationships with Residential and Nursing Care Homes
4. To be responsible for developing agreements to act as a Trusted Assessor with the Residential and Nursing Care Homes to meet the requirements of the Care Quality Commission and each homes individual governance and insurance obligations
5. To work alongside Care Homes in order to develop and use a generic assessment tool.
6. To develop systems in collaboration with Commissioners, Brokerage teams and Care Homes to capture real time data on Care Home vacancies to support the timely admission process
7. To gain and maintain a comprehensive knowledge of available Care Home resources to maximise the support available to the person and the Care Home.
8. To undertake assessments and reassessments on behalf of Residential and Nursing Care Homes in order to facilitate safe and timely discharges for people being discharged from hospital
9. To work alongside the acute trust to ensure medication and support requirements are in place to enable safe discharge to take place
10. To facilitate the flow of information between the hospital, the Care Home, Adult Social Care and the Discharge team about the person’s needs and the Care Home’s ability to meet those needs.
11. To encourage those Care Homes who prefer to undertake their own assessments, to carry them out in a timely manner and facilitate their access to systems and knowledge to underpin this requirement
12. To identify bottlenecks in processes and implement solutions to aid in reducing delayed discharges of care, adhering to the principles of continuous improvement
13. To work with Care Homes where individuals have repeated episodes or have a higher than average volume of individuals entering hospital to identify causes and potential solutions.
14. To complete accurate and timely recording of performance to support completion of KPI reporting.
15. Report on issues raised by Care Homes about quality of discharge, working closely with the Patient Flow and Discharge Teams to improve future discharges.
16. Participate in the evaluation of the pilot Trusted Assessor post.

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| **CRITERIA** | **NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS** | |
|  | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| **EXPERIENCE** | * Substantial experience off working within multi-disciplinary and multi organisational teams * Substantial experience of working in social care or health care delivery at a supervisory level or above * Substantial experience of working within older peoples’ services | * Experience of Care Homes Management |
| **SKILLS AND ABILITIES** | * Substantial involvement in discharge processes in a variety of settings * Good organisational skills, the ability to work under pressure to meet deadlines and targets. * The ability to work effectively in situations that present challenges. * The ability to manage change in an ever changing work sphere. * Excellent communication skills, including good oral and written communication skills * The ability to motivate other professionals to meet person-centred outcomes for individuals and families * The ability to use IT equipment effectively and undertake a range of admin tasks. * Full driving licence and full access to a car for work purposes |  |
| **EDUCATION/ QUALIFICATIONS/ KNOWLEDGE** | * Knowledge of a range of clinical and social care assessment tools * To have or be willing to work towards a working knowledge of CQC regulations * Level 4 QCF in health and/or social care or equivalent * Knowledge of conditions, and illnesses related to the client group. * Knowledge of relevant legislation e.g. Health & Social Care Act 2008, Care Act - Protection of Vulnerable Adults and Mental Capacity Act. | * Good working knowledge of CQC regulations * Current Nursing registration with NMC * Current Social work registration with HCPC * Attained or working towards Level 5 Leadership and Management or equivalent |
| **OTHER REQUIREMENTS** | * Flexible approach to work by responding to the needs of the services including, at times, requirements to work beyond normal working hours * Commitment to own continuous personal and professional development * Strong team player, committed to an ethos of continuous improvement | * Evidence of own continuous personal and professional development |
| **COMMITMENT TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES** | * Commitment to equal opportunities and the ability to recognise the needs of different service users | * Evidence of having completed training in equality and diversity awareness |
| **COMMITMENT TO SERVICE DELIVERY/ CUSTOMER CARE** | * Commitment to provide a customer-focussed service | * Evidence of surpassing customer expectations or service targets / goals |

**Organisational Structure and Governance**