2021 VAC 152 **Job Description**

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| **Job title** | **Homeless Officer (Health Inequalities) (Health)** |
| **Grade** | **Grade 5** |
| **Service/Team** | Housing ServiceHousing Options Team  |
| **Main purpose of job**  | 1. To work with Sunderland Council to identify homeless clients who require support to tackle homelessness and poor health which could be a barrier to securing and sustaining settled accommodation.
2. To ensure that homeless clients engage with services to support their health and tackle health inequalities within the homeless sector.
3. To work in tandem with the Homeless Officer (Health Inequalities) Officer primary care services, Mental Health services and voluntary services and to liaise with CCG Safeguarding leads to improve health outcomes for the service.
4. To ensure improved health outcomes for homeless clients
5. To prevent homelessness arising as a consequence or poor mental or physical health.
6. To ensure clients health needs are supported to ensure that they can sustain a tenancy.
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| **Key responsibilities & tasks**  | 1. To work in partnership with the Homeless Officer (Health Inequalities).
2. To complete health assessments for clients to identify priority health needs.
3. To liaise with substance abuse services and housing services to ensure all necessary support is provided.
4. To support clients with attendance at primary care, vaccination services, health clinics and health promotion services.
5. Collate details of homeless clients who have health support needs from the wider Housing Options Team.
6. Attend primary care MDT to support homeless clients with complex health needs.
7. Identify areas of health need and develop risk assessments and care plans to address engagement and access to services.
8. Access support from CCG safeguarding named GPs and Designated professionals for advice and guidance on health services where required.
9. Help develop Homeless Support Plans which highlight the necessary support requirements, support providers and detail how the client will remain engaged with this support to ensure the barrier/s of poor health conditions are removed and independent living facilitated.
10. Work in tandem with the Homeless Officer (Health Inequalities) and primary care services to navigate the health system to ensure that homeless clients receive and remain engaged with the necessary health services.
11. Work with primary care, mental health services and voluntary services as well as liaison and support from named GPs and Designated nurses in the CCG to develop improved health outcomes and engagement for clients.
12. Horizon scan to identify best practice in tackling health inequalities within the sector.
13. Identify partners who provide services to improve health and engage with these to secure additional support for homeless clients.
14. To develop performance indicators which indicate if this specific approach to tackling poor health is positive.
15. Audit service for health outcomes and improvements in access to health services for homeless clients.
16. To assist in the collation of Freedom of Information requests.
17. To manage, maintain and monitor their own workload in order to meet identified targets and deadlines, in accordance with current standards and procedures.
18. Support the identification of accommodation and support for clients increase the availability of options for homeless clients and ensure accommodation provision is co-ordinated and fit for purpose.
19. To support the development and review of procedures and policies to enable the placement of homeless clients and ensure they stay engaged with health services.
20. To engage with Council Homeless Reduction Officers regards homeless applications, support plans and referrals to temporary accommodation when required.
21. Work closely with Homeless Reduction Officers to enable decisions pursuant to the Housing Act 1996, Part VII.
22. Work closely with the Tenancy Sustainment Officer to identify and provide ongoing support regards health and remove barriers to sustaining a tenancy.
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| **Responsible for staff/equipment**  | N/A |
| **Other duties/specific policies e.g. DBS** | 1. Being flexible in approach to be able to deliver what is required within the remit of the post and grade.
2. Comply with the principles and requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR in relation to the management of Council records and information and respect the privacy of personal information held by the Council.
3. The post holder must comply with the principles of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to the management of Council records and information.
4. Comply with the Council’s information security standards, and requirements for the management and handling of information; Use Council information only for authorised purposes.
5. Carry out duties with full regard to the Council’s Equality policies, Code of Conduct and all other Council policies.
6. Comply with the Council’s Health and Safety policy, rules and regulations and with Health and Safety legislation.
7. Comply with the principles and requirements in relation to the management of Council records and information; respect the privacy and personal information held by the Council.
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The above is not exhaustive, and the post holder will be expected to undertake any duties which may reasonably fall within the level of responsibility and the competence of the post as directed by the Housing Manager (Vulnerable People).

Author: M.Bewick

July 2021