

Job Description

Palliative Care Family Social Worker



Post: Palliative Care Family Social Worker

Salary Range: £33,176 - £39,027 FTE (Band 6)

Accountable to: Hospice CEO

Responsible to: Clinical Services Manager

Hours of work: 22.5 hours per week to be worked flexibly
Full flexibility required at all times

Purpose: Working in collaboration with the Hospice team and providing operational support and focus. Managing a clinical caseload of individuals, families and carers, including the provision of generic psychosocial support, addressing complex needs and assisting patients and carers in the achievement of agreed goals.

Principal Tasks

- To provide a specialist and generic social work service for Hospice patients and their families, using social work models and theories.
- To understand the context and remit of the service providers both within the Hospice environment and within the wider community, in order to support the needs of the patients or carers
- To assess the social, emotional and psychological needs of the patient, family and carers and to support and empower them to find ways of coping.
- To assess the practical and emotional needs of patients and carers and drawing up a care plan
- To build a trusting relationship to help alleviate or break social isolation and increase capacity
- To build up knowledge and understanding of local resources, community and statutory services in addition to the services of the Hospice for the best interests of the patients or carers.

Key Duties

- To take a lead in developing the skills and confidence of those accessing Hospice services; working with colleagues to ensure successful implementation of new service models and develop integrated approaches to achieve continuity and holistic care
- To respond to needs in the community through the design and delivery of innovative ways of enabling peer support, training and guidance
- To maintain a caseload of individual and family work, exemplifying a high level of psychological casework skill; to respond to requests for advice and support for direct work in individual cases, working in other agency settings if necessary.

- To respond proactively to needs in the community by providing training, guidance and consultation in working with patients in the care of other relevant agencies, so that they are more able to provide their own effective response to the needs of people in their care
- To provide bereavement support as needed.
- To provide specialist advice and advocacy for patients and families on community, financial and welfare matters and to liaise with the appropriate agencies.
- To work together with others in the Clinical Team to provide safe, effective planning for patient discharges.
- To contribute as appropriate to the ongoing development of hospice services, on site and in the community, lending support to other colleagues and volunteers who are engaged in hospice community-based developments.
- To maintain clear, concise, accurate and contemporaneous records, communicating all necessary information to other team members.
- To collect data in a timely manner to ensure accurate reporting
- To contribute to quality initiatives within the organisation
- To participate in appropriate regional or national working groups, including the Association of Palliative Care Social Workers, so that the hospice can contribute to and remain well-informed of current practice and service developments
- To ensure that administrative and support services are delivered to achieve high standards of care
- To make sure that agreed outcome measures are applied.
- To maintain the highest professional standards of practice and to maintain registration with Social Work England.

Special Features

- The post holder may be expected to work outside of standard office hours
- To have a full driving licence, access to own car for business and ability to drive throughout area.

Health & Safety

- All staff have responsibilities to ensure that our working environment continues to be a safe, secure, healthy and fulfilling place to work
- Staff are required to work in line with Health & Safety Policy to ensure not only their own health and safety, but that of others too.

Child Protection and Vulnerable People

It is the responsibility of all staff to:

- Safeguard children and/or vulnerable adults, to access training to ensure they know what constitutes abuse, and what support is available to them, at a level appropriate to their role and responsibilities;
- Report any concerns, without delay, to the identified person within their department/division or area of responsibility as per the relevant policies, keeping clear records, and following up as required to ensure necessary actions have been taken.

This job description describes the main duties of the post holder and is not exhaustive. It will be reviewed with the post holder as part of the regular performance review and staff development procedure. This job description does not form part of the Contract of Employment.