



## **Alzheimer Scotland**

### **Dementia Link worker**

#### **Purpose of the Post**

The Link Worker is part of the range of services available to support people with a diagnosis of dementia, their families and carers. The Worker will provide flexible and proactive advice, information and support to people with a new diagnosis of dementia for a minimum of one year, using the 5 Pillars Model of Post Diagnostic Support.

#### **Main Duties and Responsibilities**

1. To function as a core member of Community Mental Health Team focusing on people with a recent diagnosis of dementia, acting as a key worker where appropriate.
2. To provide information, advice and support for people who have been recently diagnosed with dementia, and their families and carers
3. To support people with dementia and their families and carers to understand their condition and to manage the symptoms.
4. To ensure that information provided is accurate and up to date and tailored to the personalised outcomes of the individual.
5. To act as a named person for a minimum of a year to ensure that people with dementia and their families and carers, know whom they can contact for information, advice and support.
6. To enable people with dementia and their families and carers, to be fully informed and plan their own pathway through dementia.
7. To facilitate access to a range of support services.
8. To support people with dementia to maintain or regain community connections.
9. To support people with dementia to access peer support.
10. To support people with dementia to put in place arrangements for future decision-making.
11. To support each person with dementia to develop their own person-centred support plan to guide their future care.



12. To undertake outcome focussed assessments for post-diagnostic support based on the 5 Pillars model which will lead to agreed and specific personal outcomes to maximise independence including facilitating use of support available in the community and to refer as required for health and social care services.
13. To monitor and review personalised outcomes as required and in line with Alzheimer Scotland Operational Guidance.
14. To monitor changing circumstances, identifying and managing risk in line with Operational Guidance.
15. To liaise and collaborate with other professionals involved in providing dementia care.
16. To record and monitor all work undertaken in writing or electronically, including production of performance indicators, work plans and evaluation reports as required and to provide data as required for HEAT target monitoring.
17. To attend team meetings and training courses as necessary, and to participate in case load supervision
18. To contribute to the supervision or development of students or trainees when appropriate.
19. To undertake any other tasks consistent with in the general remit of the post.

### **Accountability**

The Link Worker is accountable to the Service Manager

### **Salary**

The post holder will be subject to a criminal check through Disclosure Scotland.

This job description is open to review at any time by the partner organisation to the initiative.

January 2015



## Alzheimer Scotland

### Dementia Link Worker - Person Specification

This person specification should be read with the job description for the post of Dementia Link Worker. Please note that the competencies are not ranked in priority order.

The following criteria will be used in short-listing candidates and in appointing the successful applicant.

<b>Competency</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Professional attitudes and values.	<p>Understanding of and empathy with Alzheimer Scotland's aims and values.</p> <p>Understanding of the principles, values and practice of community care and joint working</p> <p>Experience of successful working in community care services, health care setting, or a social care setting.</p>	
Qualifications	Recognised professional qualification in social care, social work, nursing, occupational therapy, community work, counselling or other related occupations to a minimum of SVQ Level 3 or equivalent.	<p>Recognised professional qualification in Dementia Care.</p> <p>SVQ level 4 in Health and Social Care</p> <p>Full driving license and access to a vehicle during working time.</p>
Work experience	Experience of working	Experience of working

	<p>with and providing services to people with dementia and their carers. Experience of multi-agency working and supporting vulnerable adults.</p> <p>Experience of person centred planning and assessment.</p> <p>Experience of working in an unsupervised manner and of being responsible for and organising their own workload.</p>	<p>with or within Old Age Psychiatry Services.</p> <p>Experience of management and leadership in a community care, social care, social work or health care setting.</p>
Budgeting		Experience and awareness of budgets.
Communication	<p>Good interpersonal and communication and telephone skills</p> <p>Evidence of good IT Skills.</p> <p>Ability to produce written reports and routine communication with minimal administrative assistance.</p>	Awareness and or experience of IT systems and software.
Professional relationships	<p>Ability to work as part of a team and to initiate, sustain and respond to various people within an interagency environment.</p> <p>Ability to relate purposefully and communicate effectively with person with dementia and their carers in a range of settings and in a manner, which shows a sensitivity and understanding of their needs.</p>	



	Ability to manage own case load effectively.	
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December 2011.