

## JOB DESCRIPTION

### Alzheimer Scotland Post Diagnostic Support – Dementia Link Worker

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

The Dementia Link Worker will initially be based in a particular geographical area of Edinburgh and will be part of the range of services to support people with dementia and their families after diagnosis. The Dementia Link Worker will deliver a year of post diagnostic support to people newly diagnosed with dementia and will enhance the support already available across the city. The Link Worker will provide advice, information and support based on Alzheimer Scotland's 5 Pillars Model of Post Diagnostic Support.

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

1. Use the 5 Pillars Model to work with people newly diagnosed with dementia, acting as a key worker, where appropriate, and facilitating change of key worker to other specialist team members as individual's conditions or needs change. This may include referring on to more appropriate community services should person be at a later stage in their dementia and benefit more from community supports input in line with Alzheimer Scotland's 8 Pillars Model of Community Support.
2. To provide information, advice and support for people who have been recently diagnosed with dementia, their carers and families and assist the person and their family to come to terms with their condition.
3. Undertake outcome focussed assessments, based on the 5 Pillars Model which will lead to agreed and specific personal outcomes to maximise independence achievable through use of support available in the community.
4. To refer people on to appropriate NHS or local authority teams where more complex assessments are required.
5. Monitor and review personalised outcomes as required and in line with Alzheimer Scotland Operational Guidance.
6. Monitor changing circumstances, identifying and managing risk in line with Operational Guidance.
7. To ensure that information provided is accurate, up to date and tailored to the personalised outcomes of the individual.
8. To act as a named person from the onset of a diagnosis to ensure that people with dementia and carers know whom they can contact as and when required for information, advice and support.
9. To enable people with dementia and carers to be more informed and plan their own pathway through dementia, including assisting and or sign posting individuals who choose to pursue Self Directed Support.

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10. To utilise a health promotion type approach to promote a greater awareness and understanding of the range of diseases known as dementia.
11. To facilitate access to a range of supports at an early stage of the illness.
12. To liaise and collaborate with other professionals involved in providing dementia support and care services.
13. To record and monitor all work undertaken, including production of performance indicators, work plans and evaluation reports as required.
14. To keep case files for service users up to date (written or electronically) as required and in accordance with agreed protocols.
15. To participate in multi - agency meetings and training courses as necessary.
16. To contribute to the supervision or development of students or trainees when appropriate.
17. To undertake any other tasks consistent within the general remit of the post. As these are new posts and part of the development of dementia services within Edinburgh this job description is open to review at any time by the partnership leading the developments.

#### **Accountability**

Line management support is provided by Alzheimer Scotland and the Link Worker is accountable to the Service Manager, Edinburgh & West Lothian Services.

#### **Salary**

The post is graded at points 27 – 30, pro rata for part time posts.

This post is considered Regulated Work with Vulnerable /Protected Adults, under the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007. Preferred candidates will be required to join the PVG Scheme or undergo a PVG scheme update check prior to a formal offer of employment being made.

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#### Person Specification

The following criteria will be used in shortlisting candidates and in appointing the successful applicant. Please note that the competencies are not ranked in priority order.

	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
<b>Professional attitudes and values</b>		
Understanding of and empathy with the organisation's aims and values	✓	
Understanding of the principles, values and practice of community care and joint working	✓	
Experience of successful working in community care services, health care setting, or a social care setting.	✓	
<b>Qualifications</b>		
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.	✓	
Recognised professional qualification in Dementia Care.		✓
SVQ level 4 in Health and Social Care		✓
Full driving license and access to a vehicle during working time.		✓
<b>Work experience</b>		
Experience of working with and providing services to people with dementia and their carers.	✓	
Experience of multi-agency working and supporting vulnerable adults.	✓	
Experience of person centred planning and assessment.	✓	

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Experience of working in an unsupervised manner and of being responsible for and organising their own workload.	✓	
Experience of working with or within Old Age Psychiatry Services.		✓
Experience of management and leadership in a community care, social care, social work or health care setting.		✓
<b>Budgeting</b>		
Experience and awareness of budgets.		✓
<b>Communication</b>		
Good interpersonal and communication and telephone skills	✓	
Evidence of good IT Skills.	✓	
Ability to produce written reports and routine communication with minimal administrative assistance.	✓	
Awareness and or experience of IT systems and software.		✓
<b>Professional relationships</b>		
Ability to work as part of a team and to initiate, sustain and respond to various people within an interagency environment.	✓	
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.	✓	
Ability to manage own case load effectively.	✓	