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**Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**

**Patient Safety Partner**

**Role Description**

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| **Role Purpose** |
| The Patient Safety Partner (PSP) role is a new voluntary role, which has been developed by NHS England as part of the National Patient Safety Strategy to help improve patient safety across NHS healthcare in the UK.  PSPs will be actively involved in the design of safer healthcare at all levels of the organisation. This includes roles in safety governance and in the development and implementation of relevant strategy and policy.  We are initialling recruiting for two PSP volunteers, who will work in partnership with staff to influence and improve the governance and leadership of safety within the Trust and shape future roles and opportunities for Patient Safety Partners. This will be a great opportunity to share your skills, interests, and experience to help develop the PSP role and work as part of the Patient Safety team. |
| **Benefits of PSP involvement** |
| PSPs can act as ‘knowledge brokers’ as they often have insight as a user of services across different parts of the NHS or may have experience of avoidable harm and can therefore help inform the development of safety solutions that cross organisational boundaries. They provide a different perspective on patient safety, one that is not influenced by organisational bias or historical systems, providing insight from a different perspective on patient safety.  The benefits of PSP involvement include:   * promoting openness and transparency * supporting the organisation to consider how processes appear and feel to patients * helping the organisation know what is important to patients * helping the organisation identify risk by hearing what feels unsafe to patients * supporting the prioritisation of risks that need to be addressed and subsequent improvement programmes * supporting the organisation in developing an action plan following investigation, particularly so that actions address the needs of patients * helping the organisation produce patient information that patients understand and can access. |
| **Key Responsibilities** |
| In this role you will form part of the team who will be developing and shaping how PSPs might contribute to the patient safety strategy at Dorset County Hospital. Some examples of the responsibilities and tasks PSPs will undertake include:   * membership of safety and quality committees whose responsibilities include the review and analysis of safety data * involvement in patient safety improvement projects * working with organisation boards to consider how to improve safety * involvement in staff patient safety training. * participation in investigation oversight groups.   Due to the Trust’s commitment to safety and continuous improvement this role will evolve over time. This specific role will enable you to be a key part in how the role develops and any changes to your role will be made in consultation and agreement with you. |
| **Qualities, Skills, Experience** |
| We are looking for someone who can demonstrate and bring some of the following qualities, skills, and experience to the role:   * an understanding and broad interest in patient safety * ability to communicate well in writing and read comprehensive reports * ability to understand and evaluate a range of information and evidence * confidence to communicate well verbally with senior leaders about strategic issues, as an advocate for patient safety * ability to provide a patient, carer, or lay perspective and to put forward views on behalf of the wider community/groups of patients (not own opinion only) * experience of championing health improvements; able to be a critical friend * interaction with multiple stakeholders at senior management level * experience of working in partnership with healthcare organisations or programmes * sound judgement and an ability to be objective * personal integrity and commitment to openness, inclusiveness, and high standards * excellent planning and organisational skills * experience in chairing meetings |
| **Training** |
| You will be provided with Trust induction training which you will have to complete in order to carry out this role. On completion of this you will receive a local induction and provided with ongoing additional training relevant to the role. |
| **Commitment** |
| Patient Safety Partners will be required to demonstrate the Trust values and abide by Trust Policies including for example, Confidentiality, Equality, Safeguarding, Infection Prevention and Control and Health and Safety. The Trust values and policy details are included in the Trust induction training.  Whilst you are not under any contractual agreement within this role, we are looking for someone who can commit to two years in this role with a time commitment of a minimum of four hours per month plus time to prepare for meetings / events. |
| **Support** |
| In this role you will report to the Patient Safety Specialist and will receive ongoing support from the Volunteer Support Team.  This is a voluntary role, but travel expenses will be reimbursed in line with our Volunteer Policy. |
| **PSP Agreement** |
| As a PSP you will be asked to sign an agreement on completion of your Trust induction training to confirm you understand the role and that you understand and will abide by the Trust policies and values. Once training is completed and the agreement is signed you will be able to commence in your role. |
| **NHS Checks** |
| This role requires you to complete mandatory NHS checks which includes, a standard disclosure and barring service, (DBS) check which we will provide for you free of charge, a right to work and verification of identity check, reference checks and an occupational health check which is necessary to ensure we will not put you at any risk in this role. |