Registered nurses: Recognising the responsibilities and contribution of registered nurses within social care

Contribution to health and social care agendas
The adult social care sector workforce includes employment of 41,000 registered nurses and makes a big contribution to:
- hospital admission avoidance
- early discharge
- managing long term and enduring conditions
- prevention
- re-ablement
- health and wellbeing.

Operating within a complex regulatory and organisational landscape

A multi-faceted role

Professional autonomy
Drawing on their professional nursing knowledge to make complex decisions, in line with The Code (NMC, 2018).

Philosophy of care
Embodying the capabilities and cultures of both health and social care professions and employing their nursing knowledge and skills within a social model of care.

Leading and enabling others

A relationship-based approach to supporting wellbeing
- they focus on the people they support and their families
- spend time with people in their care to gain an understanding of them
- use ordinary life activities as ways of building and maintaining relationships

Leadership responsibility

Day-to-day management

Social care
Health care

At the forefront of health and social care boundaries
Registered nurses in social care build relationships with:
- GPs
- hospital clinicians
- physiotherapists
- occupational therapists
- social workers
- housing providers.

To see the full document go to www.skillsforcare.org.uk/registerednursesinsocialcare.

1 Overview of the size and structure of the adult social care sector and workforce in England, as at 2019