



## Shine a Spotlight on...

### Why social care offers a rewarding path for Advanced Practitioner

**We hear from Jon Solomons, Advanced Clinical (Nurse) Practitioner at Hammerson House, discusses his journey to working in social care nursing and what he finds most rewarding.**

When I first ventured into a career in nursing, it wasn't necessarily with social care in mind. But I'm so glad this is where it has brought me, as working in the social care sector has proven to be extremely rewarding, at times challenging, and filled with a wealth of opportunity.

I'm currently an advanced clinical nurse practitioner at Hammerson House, part of the Nightingale Hammerson group. Nightingale Hammerson is a charity with over 180 years of existence providing care to the Jewish community with care homes situated at either end of London.

Each of these two sites has more than 100 beds where care is provided with a strong ethos of relationship-centred care.

My role involves triaging, responding to, assessing and managing acute presentations autonomously throughout the shift.

The role involves, diagnosing undifferentiated presenting complaints and where appropriate prescribing - or at times deprescribing - medications.

Other elements of my role involve managing frailty, prioritising competing healthcare needs of multiple long-term conditions and acute presentations, and advanced care planning, and assessing, managing and prescribing in palliative and end of life care.

Working in this environment allows for a truly multi-disciplinary team approach to care, being a leading member of the clinical team and promoting evidence-based practice. As such, the role combines clinical practice and holistic care for a resident group who are living often with multiple long-term conditions and complex care needs.

I've been in my role for over two and half years now, and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience so far. Having come from a background in rapid response as a community matron prior to this, the role offered a unique opportunity to utilise my

skills as an ACP and build on and consolidate my experience in frailty and care of the elderly.

The ACP role was championed by Health Education England their 2017 *Multiprofessional Framework for Advanced Clinical Practice*, subsequently updated in 2025. The framework came about in direct response to *The Francis Report*, and the recognition of the need to develop and provide a framework and standards for advanced practice, giving a voice and standardising advanced practice roles to senior frontline clinicians to improve resident outcomes. The framework lays out the four pillars of advanced practice; clinical practice, education, research and leadership. By working in this clinical role in a nursing care home setting it has also allowed for opportunities for me to provide training and education in house for carers, nurses and students.

By responding to acute presentations throughout the shift, the role has allowed me to build strong working relationships and provide continuity of care for residents, their relatives and the wider multi-disciplinary team who support them.

It has also allowed for greater GP contact time with their named doctor on their weekly 'ward round', as the GPs are less likely to be called away to urgent or emergency cases during their shifts, as I'm able to support with such presentations.

We're also able to deliver high-quality palliative care as a care and nursing facility in-house, with skilled nursing staff able to deliver palliative care and myself and the GPs able to prescribe anticipatory medications/injectables for symptom management in end-of-life care.

We also work closely with our local hospice/community palliative care service when specialist expert support is required. In addition, my role allows for dynamic advanced care planning discussions with residents and their relatives to ensure their best interests are at the centre of their care, the future of their healthcare is planned for and as such helps avoid hospital admissions. This may often involve working closely with consultants in secondary care to facilitate hospital-based treatments or investigations in the community and working with local hospital at home services and ambulatory care services.

Having worked for several years as a health care assistant, staff nurse, senior staff, community matron and now ACP, I would encourage others with an interest to also explore this career pathway.

I'm now working in a portfolio career in which I split my week between Hammerson House and another role in a GP surgery with occasional work as a university lecturer. This allows for each role to complement the other and provides the variety and experience I enjoy.

I would strongly encourage others to explore careers in social care settings from those who are newly qualified, looking for opportunities for training and development, or advancing their practice. The social care sector certainly provides a rich,

relationship-centred, complex and rewarding career pathway for a range of roles within nursing, care and the wider multi-disciplinary team.

## **Do you have an adult social care nursing career journey to share?**

We want to hear from you to find out what inspired you to start your career. Email [SocialCareNursing@skillsforcare.org.uk](mailto:SocialCareNursing@skillsforcare.org.uk) to find out more and we'll get in touch to capture your full story.