

A black and white photograph of a woman with dark hair and glasses, smiling. She is wearing a white lab coat. The image is overlaid with a grid of horizontal white lines. A blue rectangular box is positioned in the lower-left area of the image, containing the text 'Registered nurses' in white.

# Registered nurses

## Preface



This statement provides a description of the role, knowledge and skills employed by registered nurses who work in the adult social care sector in England. It represents the common characteristics across different service settings and reflects the passion of those who work in this field.

The statement has been developed by Skills for Care in consultation with registered nurses and the people they support, plus other professionals who work in and with the adult social care sector.

Its' purpose is to raise the profile and reputation of nursing in the adult social care sector, by promoting understanding about the contribution that these registered nurses can make to national health and social care agendas.



## **An overview of the adult social care sector**

## **A relationship-based approach to supporting well-being**

Registered nurses work as part of broader care teams that are concerned with creating quality

## Leading and enabling others



## At the frontline of health and social care boundaries



The in-depth knowledge that registered nurses possess about the needs of the people they support means that they are well placed to lead care planning across social and health care systems.

They are outward-looking and possess intelligence about local health care services and social support organisations. They provide advice, signpost or refer the people they support, plus their families on occasion, to whatever help and assistance may be needed.

Registered nurses in adult social care are “systems” leaders. They are confident in working across organisational boundaries and they use enhanced interpersonal skills - negotiation, mediation and advocacy - to navigate the layers of complexity that are often involved in accessing services. They do this by building relationships and working collaboratively with the many different members of multi-professional teams for example GPs and hospital clinicians, physiotherapists and occupational therapists, social workers and housing providers.

Given the high levels of need for health care services experienced by many of the people they support, registered nurses in social care settings make a significant contribution to health and social care agendas such as:

hospital admission avoidance	prevention
early discharge	re-ablement
managing long term and enduring conditions	health and wellbeing.

### In summary – a multi-faceted role

Registered nurses in adult social care enjoy high levels of professional autonomy and responsibility. This supports confident and innovative practice together with strong clinical decision-making.

The multi-faceted nature of their role means they also develop a wide range of transferable expertise with the need to be flexible, resourceful and creative in finding solutions to short, medium and longer term care and business needs.



I have the privilege of being in a key position to bridge the gap between health and social care and see the benefits to vulnerable people when this works harmoniously.

Working in the health sector is something that comes as part and parcel of being a nurse of course, but... being able to carry out a health care role in the social care sector opens the nursing world to a whole new way of thinking.

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**Charlotte Hilburn: Nurse trainer for Independence Matters**



I love working in social care because it is challenging and interesting. No two days are the same and it is extremely rewarding.

It is a privilege to work at The Crown Rest Home and care for the residents who have complex care needs. I am able to look after residents when they are physically well helping them to maintain their health and I nurse them when they are unwell, giving very specific person-centred care.

I would encourage others to work in the sector because you have a varied career looking after multiple pathology and are very much part of the community multidisciplinary team.

**Patricia Ralph: Clinical Manager at The Crown Rest Home**



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