

What is the Care Home Trusted Assessor?



Leeds Care Association



Challenges have been identified in relation to hospital discharges into care homes. Specifically, delays have been linked with a wait for assessments to be completed to understand if a patient is appropriate for the particular home and whether they are able to meet the identified needs. Due to pressures faced within the care home at any given time, it can take up to a week, in some cases, to undertake an initial assessment. This causes the patient, who is medically fit for discharge, unnecessary and extended time in hospital as well as putting increased pressures on the hospital.

In order to overcome this challenge and to develop relationships with care homes, the **Care Home Trusted Assessor** role has been introduced to provide support to both care homes and the hospital, around discharges.

The **Care Home Trusted Assessor** role is a joint project with Leeds Care Association (being the care homes representative), The NHS and Leeds Council. All have the same objective, to reduce unnecessary delays, and the role aims to:

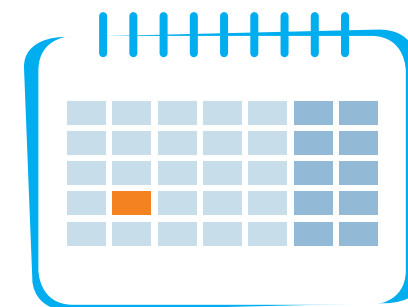
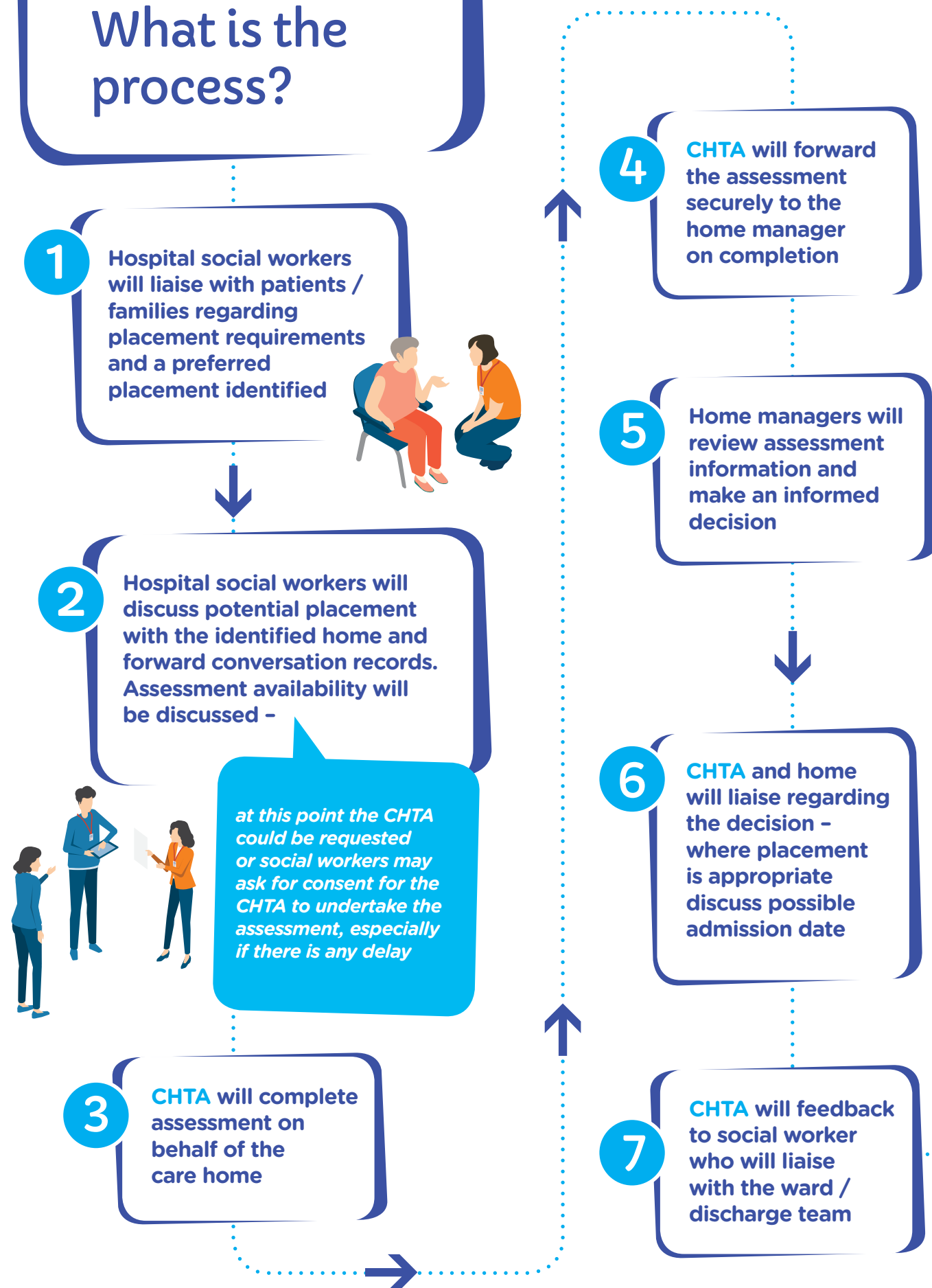
- Provide assessment support to facilitate safe and timely discharge from hospital
- Undertake assessments on behalf of the care homes, where consent is given
- Ensure that assessment information is detailed and allows an informed decision to be made regarding the individuals' needs
- Work in partnership with care homes and the hospital to reduce the current challenges

What is the Care Home Trusted Assessor?



- The **CHTA** provides assessment support to care homes and hospitals in order to facilitate safe and timely discharges and avoid unnecessary delays for patients fit for discharge
- The **CHTA** can undertake assessment where there are delays due to assessment or, indeed, to prevent delays to the discharge process occurring
- The **CHTA** is an impartial assessor completing a comprehensive assessment on behalf of, where consent is given, care homes
- The **CHTA** is a contact for home managers during this assessment process
- The **CHTA** provides a comprehensive assessment which enables an informed decision to be made regarding suitability for the service
- The **CHTA** can also review an existing resident who is in hospital where a home may be concerned that needs may have changed

What is the process?



Process for Social Workers

- Refer to CHTA with the consent of the identified home
- CHTA undertake assessment
- CHTA forward information to the home
- CHTA and home liaise RE: decision
- CHTA informs social worker
- Social worker confirms anticipated discharge date with ward and home

9 **DISCHARGE!**



- The **CHTA** is not assessing the needs of the patient and is not involved in the decision-making process regarding home selection. Home managers maintain the regulatory responsibility for admissions and ongoing care planning.
- Assessment information will be gathered from the ward records, conversation with patients and family (where appropriate) and hospital computer records and will be reflective of the patients' current status.
- If a home is approached directly and a prospective resident is in hospital, the **CHTA** can also provide assessment support when medically fit for discharge. If there is no social worker involved, care homes can contact the CHTA directly
- Managers can say no to using the **CHTA**
(although why would you!)



The **CHTA** is based at St. James' Hospital, alongside the hospital social workers, allowing the timely sharing of information as required.

The **CHTA** will only receive referrals where consent of the home is given. Once received, the social worker will refer and assessment will be completed. The **CHTA** will then forward this information to you in the identified home and liaise regarding the decision. Once a decision has been made, the information is handed to the social worker and the **CHTA** steps out of the process.

If there is any delay, once discharge is agreed, the **CHTA** is able to check on the patient to ensure that all information remains relevant and, where there may be changes identified, notify the relevant parties.

To arrange an
appointment,
or if you require
further information...

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