Role Description – Band 6 Senior Information Analyst

What does a Senior Information Analyst do?

Healthcare organisations capture a lot of data from electronic systems – every patient interaction generates data. This data is used for a variety of purposes, including:

- patient care – allowing health care professionals to access all relevant information about each patient.
- managing and improving services or processes and supporting decision making
- identifying trends and patterns, predicting future events and outcomes understanding the volume and quality of care being delivered

A Senior Information Analyst works with hospital and community services data. Their role could be in the **Data Integration team** - ensuring that data is transferred and stored accurately and efficiently, or the **Analytics team** – analysing and reporting on data to provide insights for the organisation and monitor against national targets.

They would act as a subject matter expert for one or more datasets or systems, data interfaces or areas of analysis and reporting.

What tools does a Senior Information Analyst use?

A Senior Information Analyst uses a range of software tools/programming languages such as SQL, Power BI, SPSS, Python, R, Microsoft Excel (including macros). Senior Information Analysts have the expertise and experience to develop their own code. They are able to update existing code and develop new code in response to ad-hoc requests that come into the team or as part of larger projects.

What are the duties and responsibilities of a Senior Information Analyst?

A Senior Information Analyst in the **Data Integration team** develops and maintains databases within the Trust data warehouse. They write and maintain ETLs to ensure that data is transferred efficiently. They design and test HL7 interfaces between systems.

A Senior Information Analyst in the **Analytics team** explains and advises on aspects of data analysis and reporting, usually developing expertise in certain datasets. They peer review colleagues' work and specify work for junior colleagues.

A Senior Information Analyst contributes to the training and development of other members of the team and highlights their own training needs. They troubleshoot issues. They represent the department at meetings and aid in the learning process for managers/clinicians wanting to understand data.

What makes a good Senior Information Analyst?

A good Senior Information Analyst is a logical thinker with an attention to detail and excellent problem-solving skills who can troubleshoot issues independently. They can work equally well independently and in a team. They utilise excellent communication skills to keep their colleagues and managers updated. They have the ability to comprehend a complex system and explain this in a non-technical way. A willingness to learn new skills is essential.

Who does a Senior Information Analyst work with?

A Senior Information Analyst discusses reporting and data queries with other staff within Northumbria Healthcare (managers, doctors, and nurses, for example) and sometimes with staff from other NHS organisations. When involved in data interface projects, they work with external system suppliers to ensure that the system integrates correctly with other Trust systems.

What skills should a Senior Information Analyst have?

A Senior Information Analyst should have proven numeracy skills. Minimum qualification (or relevant experience) requirement for this post is a postgraduate degree (or equivalent) level qualification in a subject with a substantial numerate content (or equivalent level of experience).

Proficiency in MS Office (especially Excel and Word) or equivalent software (an understanding of document creation, formatting, and basic formulas) is also required.

They should have experience in one or more programming language and the adaptability to learn new languages quickly.

They should be a confident skilled communicator and problem solver.

Knowledge of NHS Information, the NHS Data Model and relevant electronic systems is essential and may be developed once in the post.

How does a Senior Information Analyst develop their technical skills?

Relevant training is provided on the job, both through taught online courses and one-to-one training and mentoring. Advances in coding and technology are happening all the time. This means that learning new skills is an ongoing part of the role of a Senior Information Analyst.

What is the career pathway for a Senior Information Analyst post?

An experienced Senior Information Analyst will have the equivalent of postgraduate level knowledge and will have demonstrated excellent technical/data manipulation/reporting skills. They will therefore be in a position to apply for team leader posts such as a band 7 Information Specialist, Data governance and Standards Specialist or more technical roles such as Analytics and Visualisation Specialist.