

Workforce Transformation

Community > Adults & Elderly / Mental Health

Health Education North West

- Inpatient admissions from care homes reduced by an average of 30% across inpatient services
- Average length of stay reduced by 12%
- Occupied bed days reduced by 35%
- Reduction in use of medication (particularly antipsychotics), with associated cost savings and reductions in falls
- Improved rates of dementia diagnosis with the team diagnosing 144 care home residents previously undiagnosed.



Community In-Reach Mental Health in Care Homes

Care Homes Liaison Team, 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

A growing population with dementia in care homes

- The number of people (aged 65 and over) living in a care home is predicted to rise by almost 25% between 2012 and 2020
- A similar % increase is also predicted in the number of people (aged 65 and over) that have dementia

- This means an increase of 150,000 people in just a few years

Traditionally, Community Mental Health team services have been:

- Reactive
- Crisis-intervention orientated
- Led by medical staff
- Aimed at specifically identified care home residents

Potentially harmful antipsychotic drugs can be used too readily to manage challenging behaviour.

The Care Homes Liaison Team aims to:

- Keep residents safe and well at care homes and reduce inappropriate hospital admissions
- Reduce re-admissions to hospital and the length of in-patient stay

- Respond to urgent referrals within 24 hours and routine referrals within 10 working days

- Reduce inappropriate 999 calls from care homes

- Improve the quality of mental health care in care homes

About the team

The team is multidisciplinary, comprising Advanced Practitioners supported by a lead Consultant Psychiatrist, Nurse Practitioners, Occupational Therapists, a Pharmacist and support staff. The Advanced practitioners provided leadership and clinical expertise to this innovative model of service delivery, and the Nurse Practitioners autonomously assess, manage and treat care home residents with dementia and memory problems, supporting early diagnosis. The team is also able to review and advise on mental health medication.

The team works closely with care home staff, providing training and care planning to manage the behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia. As well as responding to referrals, the team proactively visits homes to provide training and advice on care and interventions.

The initial project provided in-reach across the boroughs of Halton, Knowsley, St Helens, Warrington and Wigan, covering 176 care homes and approximately 7,000 care home beds.

Reducing length of in-patient stay

Comparing the same periods from Jan 2012 - Jan 2013 and Jan 2013 - Jan 2014:

- The average length of stay of patients from care homes year to date reduced from 58 to 51 days
- The number of occupied bed days of patients from care homes reduced from 5597 to 3602

Improving the quality of mental health care in care homes

- Total number of Medication reviews completed Jan 2013 - Jan 2014: 271
- Number of medication recommendations made from reviews: 596
- Number of residents who have a reduced falls risk as a result of a medication review: 112
- Potential savings from medication reviews: £23,907