

Care Home Health In-reach teams Best Practice Network

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Oxford Academic Health Science Network is a partnership of NHS providers, commissioners, universities and life science companies. Its aim is to improve health and promote innovation in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire.

In 2016 the AHSN formed a Best Practice Network of healthcare professionals who support care homes in providing quality care to people living with dementia. Network members share best practice and support each other to take initiatives forward.

The network is funded by Oxford AHSN and Health Education England: Thames Valley.



Vision

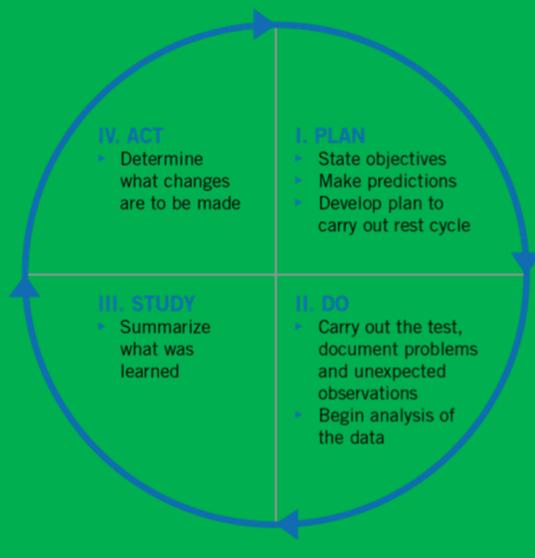
- A sustainable practice forum for reflecting on, developing and evaluating good practices.
- Supporting use of evidence based approaches.
- CPD events and sharing of project work.
- Supporting a proactive approach to care.

Scoping Exercise

- Provided an outline of the different service models operating in the region.
- Informed us that teams had initiatives which they were willing to share and areas of practice they would like to learn about from others.
- Suggested that a network would reduce professional isolation.

How we've run the network

- Set up quarterly workshops.
- Shared and supported each other on projects being implemented in care homes.
- Focused on using a 'Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA)' model.



Examples of projects

- Using audit, training and new individualised oral health care plans to improve the oral health of residents.
- Creating Dementia Champions in care home teams, and providing them with Health Education England Tier 1 dementia training and follow-up support to implement dementia specific projects.
- Launching good practice guidance on Diabetes in Care Homes, providing training and support and creating Diabetes Champions.

- Providing training to care home staff on psychosocial approaches to care and supporting sustainable implementation by recruiting professional coaches and an app to support staff.
- Working with care homes to improve recording of behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia.

We have also held 2 workshops for care home staff across the region to share ideas of projects they could adopt – *“it was interesting to see what is taking place in other areas and to hear how different issues are tackled and resolved.”*

Challenges

Covering a large geographical area; who to include; busy workloads and organisational change impacting on availability and project development; funding and becoming self-sustaining.

What next?

PDSA and outcome measures toolkit; ongoing learning and spread of projects; possible workshop for LAs/CCGs; review if the network is meeting participants' needs.