

project review



Sector: Independent Living

Client: Carlisle Housing Association

Application: Intermediate Care Project

introduction

Cumbria is the second largest county in England, with most of its residents living in rural areas. The age profile of the county conforms to the national average, with 23% over 60 years, however there is a higher than national average figure for people with a long-term illness, health problem or disability.

The Community Alarm services in North Cumbria have become a respected and trusted enhancement to core support for elderly, disabled and/or isolated people. In 2001, providers of services in Carlisle, Eden, Copeland and Allerdale agreed to work in partnership to further improve the type and range of services available to people across North Cumbria, including the large proportion of elderly in rural areas.

The partnership has focused on establishing a new and innovative approach to the provision of intermediate care. The project forms both an integral part of planned hospital discharge arrangements and an alternative to hospital admission for elderly and disabled people within North Cumbria.



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conclusion

Since the scheme was introduced in February 2002, 554 individuals have received care packages in 19 months. Most (68%) of packages were put in place to support a transfer of care, 16% actually prevented admission to hospital and 7% monitoring of the frail elderly at home. Of the total number of packages, 16% were instigated to monitor clients at risk of falling.

An important aim of the project is to release hospital beds and the major resources benefit of the project is derived from the savings produced by this one aspect of the project. **The comparison of £5,100 for six weeks in hospital (based on a minimum cost of £850 per week for a hospital bed) and £205.98 for a six week care package speaks for itself.**



The project has achieved its aims of delivering an effective intermediate care programme through partnership working, and fulfilling many of the standards set out in the NSF.

The project has demonstrated that telecare plays a key role in delivering effective, client centred services, at the same time releasing funds to be used for other vital services. The technology sustains independence and promotes healthy ageing in a safe, home environment, in line with both Government policy and the wishes of the vulnerable.

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