

NHS Salford CCG Innovation Fund - KOKU Digital Falls Prevention Program

Question Feedback:

1. Which Care Homes are already onboard with this, and what is their current Falls situation?

We have spoken with 6 Care Home Managers and 1 senior Carer from 7 Salford Care Homes and 4 have confirmed that they would like to take part in this project. We have also gained interest from a further 3 Care Home managers who have asked for more information should this application be successful.

The following care homes have confirmed that they are fully on board and have explained the impact of falls in their home. All of the Care managers audit their falls and have a number of mitigating procedures but were very pleased to be invited to take part in this project should it be successful.

Care Home manager, Bev Niland at Ecclesholme, a 50 bed residential home in Eccles.

Bev would very much like to take part and explained that falls are a big problem at the home, with 10-12 residents falling each month. The home has recently changed hands and has new ownership and a new management group which has led to a change in their online falls reporting documentation. Bev has to audit all falls and has indicated both a high level of interest and need.

Care Home manager Clare Margrave at Laburnum Court, Salford a 68 bed Nursing Home. Clare reported that falls are their number one problem at the home, just over the previous weekend 4 falls occurred of which 3 resulted in injuries and 1 a hospital admission. Clare is very keen to take part in the innovation project and thinks that both the residents and carers would benefit from the KOKU digital program and working with the KOKU Team.

Care Home manager Rachel Lee at Abbeydale, a 24 bed nursing home where Rachel has employed Rebecca Wilkinson as the newly appointed Falls Champion. Falls are a huge problem for the home and Rachel had had concerns regarding number of ambulance calls outs and hospital admissions for residents. Rachel has expressed firm commitment in this project should it be successful.

Care Home manager Steph Warren at Abbey Grove, a 19 bed residential home contacted the KOKU team and requested to take part in the project. Charlotte Bleakley Senior Carer also took part in a call regarding the project and reported that the home experience around 4 falls per month and that they fully document how these occur, an injuries and use of health or social care services.

2. What level of commitment has been secured with care homes to trial this? We have had previous significant issues with care homes redacting offers to

support innovations due to competing priorities. How would this be mitigated if no formal commitment is secured?

All of the above homes have given a firm commitment to take part. We were fortunate to have been referred to the above homes by Jeff Neil, Salford Care Homes Quality Assurance manager and out of the 7 homes contacted, 4 have requested to take part.

3. Ethics approval can become a significant delay to project initiation. Has this process been started, and if not how will this be mitigated?

Dr Stanmore has substantial experience in gaining NHS/HRA and University of Manchester ethical committee approval including previous Care Home research for falls prevention. As the project will take place in Salford Care Homes, ethical approval will be required from the University of Manchester Ethics Committee which will take 6-8 weeks (and much shorter time period than NHS/HRA procedures). We have drafted parts of the form, information sheets and consent forms and can share these upon request with the Salford innovation Team.

4. How have Salford Care Org services been engaged in developing this proposal? for example Falls service, Physio etc

Salford Care Organisations have been directly engaged in this proposal through meetings and discussions with Jeff Neil and Natalie Garrett and subsequent presentations and meetings with Salford Care Home managers. The co-lead for this proposal is Prof Emma Vardy, Consultant Geriatrician for the Northern Care Alliance in Salford and we will also work with Prof Helen Hurst, Nurse Consultant with a specialist interest in Frailty at the Northern Care Alliance. The development of KOKU involved both older users and falls prevention specialists including Physios and Occupational Therapists which has strengthened the usability and acceptability ratings for the digital application.

Thank you for your consideration of our proposal and we look forward to working with you should this project be taken forward.

Dr Emma Stanmore, Prof Emma Vardy and the KOKU Health Team.