

# THE ENHANCED HEALTH IN CARE HOMES PROJECT

Five of Basingstoke's nursing homes were selected to pilot the scheme in July 2018, in which GPs work in teams with other healthcare professionals, like pharmacists, dieticians, nurses and care home staff. Through regular multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meetings they deliver a more joined-up service to support improved care for residents. The pilot has seen fantastic successes on many levels and we are looking to you now to help us decide how we can take it forwards.

If you would like to join the scheme or have any thoughts about how we can build on what we've learned, contact Dr Amanda Britton, Chair of the North Hampshire Alliance: [dr.britton@nhalliance.co.uk](mailto:dr.britton@nhalliance.co.uk)

## Prescribing

The average resident reviewed as part of the pilot to date, had **8.7** items prescribed before their MDT meeting and **6.5** items after.

**"A lot of residents are on so much medication that's just never really been reassessed. Having pharmacists at the meetings gives you the confidence to make bold decisions about stopping someone's medication."**

- GP, Dr Dawn Coxhead

Stopping unnecessary medication, optimising dosages, or switching to more cost-effective equivalents, has saved **£996.02** so far, in addition to making residents' lives easier. That amounts to an estimated annual value of

**£11,952.24.**

## Hospital Attendances

The project has a direct affect on reducing hospital admissions. So far this year the 5 homes involved in the pilot have seen -

- **AMBULANCE CONVEYANCES - reduced by 42%**
- **A&E ATTENDANCES - reduced by 34%**
- **EMERGENCY ADMISSIONS - reduced by 26%**

Of the 53 residents who have died since the project began, only 5 died in hospital. The rest were able to pass away in their home.



Dr Dawn Coxhead and Community Matron, Lynn Aldridge

## Building Relationships

**"It used to be 'them and us,' but now it's much more joined up."**

Dr Coxhead observed that now the care home has a dedicated GP practice, they call far less often and have significantly reduced the need for urgent home visits. It also allows for practice and care home staff to build relationships and trust each other.

**"It is time consuming, but it is sustainable. The time pressures balance out with the reduced contacts and out of hours visits have massively dropped down."**

The scheme also lets GPs build relationships with the patients and their families, and get to know them. A further benefit of this is that differences in their condition can be spotted quicker.

**"It's a rare example of delivering truly cost-saving continuity of care."**

**"I would have thought most practices would benefit from coming on board."**