The use of telecare in the re-design of overnight supports for people with learning disabilities: Implementing a cluster-based approach in North Ayrshire

VS-19
Carly Nesvat, Wilma Coltart, Jim McCubbin, Colin Thomson, Shaun Ryan, Marion Gilchrist, Jan Thomson, Thelma Bowers, Dominic Jarrett

Background
In line with the public sector focus on individual empowerment, and working better within existing resources, North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership examined the provision of sleepovers to people with a learning disability. A cluster of nearby individuals receiving overnight supports was identified. In partnership with Hansel, the service provider who supported these individuals, a process of review was established, to establish opportunities for appropriately scaling back overnight support through telecare use:

Telecare (Canary Care) put in place to assess overnight activity

Family and individuals involved with multidisciplinary team in discussion of telecare data, and decision taken regarding suitability for change

If sleepover change was an option, additional telecare installed (Tunstall telecare, property exit sensors, CO2 detectors, falls detectors, flood detectors, community alarms pendant and box), and responder service established in home of nearby service user

Sleepovers reduced on a gradual basis

Outcomes
3 individuals were clearly described as benefitting from the change, and a greater sense of independence, while concerns were evident regarding the fourth.

Some family members expressed a need for greater preparation and ongoing information provision. Some support staff also expressed a need for more information, to help them understand the new arrangements. Results highlighted the need for effective preparatory and ongoing engagement with staff and families, as well as the challenges in making changes to long-standing support packages.

Next steps
All the changes implemented in the pilot have been maintained, and the Provider involved now operates the responder service on an ongoing basis. Next steps involve implementing a similar process of review for all individuals with sleepover supports, and the identification of options for change where this is appropriate.

Additional Info
An evaluation report describing the outcomes of the pilot can be found at: [http://www.nahscp.org/review-of-services/](http://www.nahscp.org/review-of-services/)

For more information please contact:
Shaun Ryan
Interim Team Manager / Mental Health Officer
Adult Learning Disability Team
Tel: 01294 476000
SRyan@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

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