

Cross-CLAHRC Care Homes Research Event 23 November 2017

1. Executive Summary

The Cross-CLAHRC Care Homes Event was designed to showcase the care home focused research of the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR)'s Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRCs). It also aimed to demonstrate how the regional and national impact of CLAHRCs' work with different partner organisations could inform further work that is innovative, sustainable and for the long term benefits of residents.

CLAHRC Directors and Programme Managers in January 2017 identified Care Homes as a national theme for cross-CLAHRC working. A steering group of researchers from twelve CLAHRCs was established to devise a plan for the event and support its delivery. In parallel to the agenda setting for the event, a summary paper of all CLAHRCs' care homes research was collated. This supported a key objective to have a narrative of CLAHRC care homes research to date.

Seventy-one delegates attended, representing care home owners and managers, NIHR CLAHRCs, charity representatives, health care professionals and lay groups. There was a mix of presentations on care home led innovations, initiatives to foster cross organisational working and the development of a research infrastructure and examples of local research involving care home staff, residents and family in setting research priorities and leading research.

Facilitated group discussions around specific topics (Service delivery and implementing best evidence into practice; dementia care; interventions to prevent complications / need for acute care interventions; living and working in care homes) discussed the presentations' recommendations; research priorities; and the particular role of CLAHRCs for care homes research.

The day concluded with a brief summary and a commitment to use the learning from the day in two ways:

- To inform future planning for research and capacity building in care homes research by CLAHRCs (now and in further iterations of the model) that builds on the foundation of existing work, emergent cross CLAHRC partnerships and the ability to sustain programmes of work over time
- As the basis for a cross CLAHRC working group to develop a national programme of work with care homes and their partners

Proposed outputs

- Summary paper for publication based on the consultation
- Involvement in an international meeting that brings together national networks for care home research (abstract accepted for May meeting in Norway)
- Briefing for NIHR on big interventions needed to improve how care homes are aligned to and work with the NHS