

**Natalie McCarthy explains how her newly-formed role as training and education co-ordinator with the Barnsley neighbourhood nursing service is helping care homes to improve the service they provide.**

A large proportion of care home residents are living with complex co-morbidities, and as these residents age their health needs inevitably increase. It means that residents in care homes often experience difficulties accessing the right care at the right time.

To meet the needs of residents and staff in Barnsley's care homes and to address this issue, the neighbourhood nursing service's training and education co-ordinator role was created. It aims to build and develop our relationships with all care homes and ensure that through regular meetings and visits we have the right conversations that ensure residents' safety.

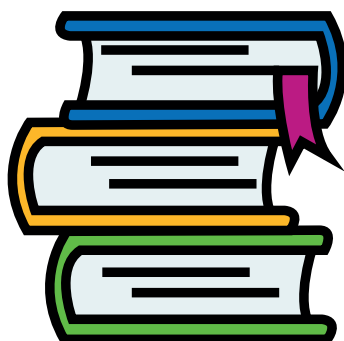
By upskilling and providing ongoing support for staff in care homes, we see a reduction in avoidable hospital admissions and improve the quality of care to all residents.

**Opportunities to learn**

To help with the delivery of training and education and to promote the service, we produced the 'Core care home training offer'. The offer delivers a range of education and training opportunities to care agencies and care homes upon request or where the need is identified. Some examples of the training packages on offer include:

- Eye drop administration
- Application of compression hosiery
- Blood sugar monitoring
- Blood pressure monitoring
- Skin tears
- Basic pressure area care (React to Red)
- Venepuncture\* (care homes only)
- Sepsis training – raising awareness
- Mattress – set up training.

I initially visited each care home within Barnsley to introduce the role and to issue a copy of the core care home offer. I also attend monthly care home managers' meetings to promote and publicise my role and the support that is available to the local care home community. Training delivery reports are produced each month and circulated to the local care home community, including a monthly focus which highlights upcoming awareness days that are relevant to care homes and any training offered.





“ Upskilling and providing ongoing support for staff in care homes can lead to a reduction in avoidable hospital admissions and improve the quality of care to all residents. ”

#### Expanding knowledge

There are 64 residential homes in Barnsley and each one has dedicated care staff that are eager to expand their knowledge and skills base. The role allows training and assessment of knowledge and competencies by providing small training groups that suit the care home's requirements, giving individuals a comfortable and friendly environment to learn.

Through building relationships with our local care homes, I can support learners in making realistic and well informed choices, help individuals address and overcome barriers to implementing effective practice and promote the benefits of learning and self-development.

#### Key outcomes

In the time that training has been available to care homes (from early May 2018) 28 separate training sessions have already been delivered to over 105 individuals who have accessed one or more training packages.

The React to Red (pressure area care) training alone has been delivered to 89% of all care homes in Barnsley via a 'train the trainer' method, meaning that eventually all care staff in Barnsley will have participated and developed an awareness of pressure area prevention.

#### Referrals

Any health professional or care homes can refer into the service. To refer to the service or for more information, contact Natalie McCarthy on [natalie.mccarthy@swyt.nhs.uk](mailto:natalie.mccarthy@swyt.nhs.uk) or 07717 427325.



#### In a nutshell

To help meet the complex needs of care home residents in Barnsley, the neighbourhood nursing service created a new training role to offer support and education to care home staff.