

Round 1 - Briefing Paper

Background

English care homes are legally required to develop a 'clear care and/or treatment plan, which includes agreed goals' and make this document 'available to all staff and others involved in providing the care'. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has defined care planning as a process 'focused on the person's whole life, including their goals, skills, abilities and how they prefer to manage their health' (CQC, 2022). According to the CQC, Care Planning should 'empower [people] to make choices and have as much control and independence as possible' (CQC, 2022). Care plans' contents can vary considerably as can the involvement of care home residents and their family or friends. Therefore, this study aims to gather feedback on a draft "key principles" document relating to care planning.

Aim

This study aims to establish consensus on a set of key principles to inform care planning in older adult care homes in England.

Work completed to date

The draft "key principles" document that you will be asked to comment on is the result of several previous work packages. These have involved:

1. A Scoping Review

We have conducted a systematic scoping review of interventions designed to promote care planning in older adult care homes. This review identified a wide range of strategies to promote care planning. However, this work also found inconsistencies in the interventions designed to promote care planning provided to staff, residents, and their family and friends (Taylor et al., 2023).

2. Consultations with care home stakeholders

We have also conducted 22 semi-structured interviews with care home staff involved in care planning in England. This work revealed a wide variety of approaches to care planning and limited evidence that care planning was being conducted in a person-centered way (Smith et al, under review).

3. Consultations with care home residents' family members

The project team includes two relatives of care home residents who have helped to develop the "key principles" document. Once this Delphi survey has been completed, we plan to share the revised document with care home residents and their family and friends and gather their feedback through a series of focus group discussions.

4. Rapid review of grey literature

Finally, we have conducted a rapid review of “grey literature” which comprised documents and publications produced by third sector organizations, government bodies, and research institutions (NICE, 2018; NICE, 2020; Department of Health and Social Care, 2022). These materials helped provide a more up-to-date picture of care planning practices and enabled us to capture insights from documents omitted from the systematic scoping review.

The Delphi survey study

We are carrying out a modified Delphi consensus survey study to identify whether there is agreement about some key principles that relate to care planning. This approach has been previously used to develop best practice guides (Temkin-Greener et al, 2015). Your survey responses will be anonymous to all but the researchers.

The topics for this study have been organized into the following sections:

1. What is the purpose of a(n advanced) care plan?
2. How can care planning be approached in a person-centred way?
3. What should be contained within a care plan?
4. When will a care plan be developed and updated?
5. Who is likely to contribute to a care plan?
6. Who should have access to a care plan?
7. Future developments in care planning

Completing the Delphi survey rounds

You will be asked to rate a series of statements which relate to care planning.

Once the first survey has been completed researchers will amend the “key principles” document based on people’s feedback. We will then send a revised version of the “key principles” document for you to rate again, alongside a summary of how you rated items in the first round and how this compared to the other responses we received.

The results are expected to provide more clarity about the “key principles” that should inform care planning in older adult care homes.

The importance of completing the whole Delphi Process

It is really important that you complete both surveys.

The reliability of the results could be compromised if people drop out of the study before it is completed, because they feel that the rest of the group does not share their opinions.

If people drop out because they feel their opinions are in the minority, the results will overestimate how much the sample of participants agreed on certain aspects of care planning.

References

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