

Blackburn with Darwen Council



Pathway to Placement Project

An assessment of the current discharge pathway in Blackburn with Darwen was undertaken by Newton Europe for people entering short term care as a step down from acute care; this demonstrated the possibility of improvements in service user experience, outcomes and related financial savings. The partnership had two simple aims, to reduce the number of long term admissions to residential care from a short term admission, and then to ensure that any support put in place is sustainable and produces the best outcomes possible for service users.

A series of workshops were undertaken involving all the professionals involved in the pathway from hospital to get the benefit of their local knowledge in redesigning how the pathway could be improved. Consideration was also made as to what services would support people to remain at home, these were put in place to support the programme and were assessed periodically as to whether they were viable service offers; an example of this is planned night visits.

The approach was then trialled to ensure that each aspect of the new model would work and then rolled-out borough-wide. To ensure that the benefits realised were identified and further improved a continuous improvement cycle was embedded. Weekly improvement cycle meetings were introduced, attended by a range of agencies, and voluntary sector representatives. The meetings reviewed every individual in the Borough currently in short term residential care and ensured that all options were explored to facilitate the person returning home, including therapy, OT, moving and handling assessments and voluntary support. Reablement staff also "in-reached" into the residential homes and supported care staff to adopt an enabling approach so that the individual was encouraged to see their short stay as a journey to home rather than a precursor to long term care. This model is still operating to date.

The programme succeeded beyond expectations, reducing the admission to Long Term Residential Care by over 40%. The long-term outcomes for service users are still actively monitored and show a duration and success rate in line with other recipients of domiciliary care. As a direct result of the programme there are over 50 people living independently in their own homes in the community who would otherwise have had to enter residential care (January 2016). This has delivered a cumulative saving of over £600,000 in 2015 as measured by the difference between an average residential placement and the actual care costs of this client group under their present arrangements.

If you need more information or have any questions please contact the [Programme Office](#) and we will put you in touch with the relevant person.