



# Enhancing nursing care provision in care homes

## Halton Borough Council

In September 2020, Halton Borough Council launched a 12-month initiative focusing on transforming and enhancing older persons care within Halton, titled the Local Workforce Action Board: Nursing Care Project.

Working closely with Health Education England, Chester University, Skills for Care, Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, and wider stakeholders in Halton, the project aims to improve nursing care in the community by focusing on four core areas, which include:

- infrastructure, centre of excellence, an online resource, and a safer staffing model
- career pathways and recruitment and retention
- professional development
- outstanding care.

As part of the project, Halton Borough Council will be recruiting a Nurse Consultant who will play a key role in supporting the nurses, ensuring they have access to training, develop skills and advocate their knowledge and expertise across all health partners. Alongside this, eight existing senior care assistants and advanced carers across residential establishments and nursing homes have been identified to complete Nursing Associate and Assistant Practitioner courses over two years, starting in Spring 2021.

Chester University will support Halton Borough Council in conducting an evaluation of the project to identify its impact on care delivery towards the end of the 12 months. The University will also provide continuing professional development (CPD) to staff employed in care homes supporting older people and will be using an education action-based pedagogical approach. From this, a competency framework will be developed which will incorporate key learnings. For many years, for nursing staff working within a care home has not been considered to be an attractive offer, compared to that of working within the NHS. Nurses have not been given the same opportunities. This project will support the work for all disciplines within the sector, training and appreciation and recognition of the skills and knowledge required to work within a care home.

The Local Workforce Action Board: Nursing Care Project is part of Halton Borough Council's overarching commitment to enhance health in care homes and to address some of the existing challenges when it comes to care, finances and organisation barriers.



**“A priority for us is to help transform and enhance older persons care across Halton and beyond and we can do this by overcoming the challenges the sector faces more broadly. Ultimately, we all want to achieve outstanding care for all those living in care homes.”**

**Emma Sutton-Thompson**  
Principal Manager  
Policy, Performance and Customer Care, Halton Borough Council

### Top tips for enhancing nursing care provision in care homes



#### **Communication is key**

It is important to ensure that everyone is on the same page and that people have the right information at the right time.



#### **Not losing sight of the project and its aims**

Projects such as this are often done alongside day-to-day work so it can be easy to get side-tracked so everyone must ensure they are setting time aside for these types of initiatives, particularly when it is just starting out, so that the desired outcomes can be achieved.

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