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**How new care models are
(likely to be) making a
difference to residents in care
homes**

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OPTIMAL TEAM

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Department of Health Disclaimer:

The views and opinions expressed therein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the HS&DR, NIHR, NHS or the Department of Health.

Optimal team

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Phase one: Realist review

- Financial incentives or sanctions,
- Agreed protocols
- Clinical expertise
- Structured approaches to assessment and care planning

Of themselves likely to be **insufficient** to achieve change **if** they did not lead to NHS and care home staff working together to identify, plan and implement care home appropriate protocols



Optimal Phase 2

- 3 sites
- 12 care homes
- 239 residents
- 116 interviews
 - NHS and Care home staff
 - Residents & Relatives
 - Commissioners (including GP commissioners)
- 14 focus groups

Three sites similar aims different approach

Site 1 Care home specialist teams linked with other older people teams and Geriatricians

Site 2 linked care homes to specific GP practices + funding to support training of care home staff in complex care

Site 3 Relied on GPs visiting individual residents with some extra nursing provision for care homes. Care home managers had all completed a **leadership programme.**



- Backdrop of reorganisation and changes to organisation of services
 - **New** NHS developed personalised care plans for care home residents
 - **Reorganisation** of community nursing services
 - Winter pressures **funding**
 - **Multiple** NHS trusts providing services to care homes
 - GP clinics introduced **then stopped**
 - Locum GPs replacing GPs who had retired were off sick **refusing** to visit care homes
 - Community dentists **stopped** visiting care homes
 - To **reduce need** for SALT community nurses trained in swallowing assessments
 - **Turnover** of NHS staff working with care homes and care home managers



Outcomes of interest

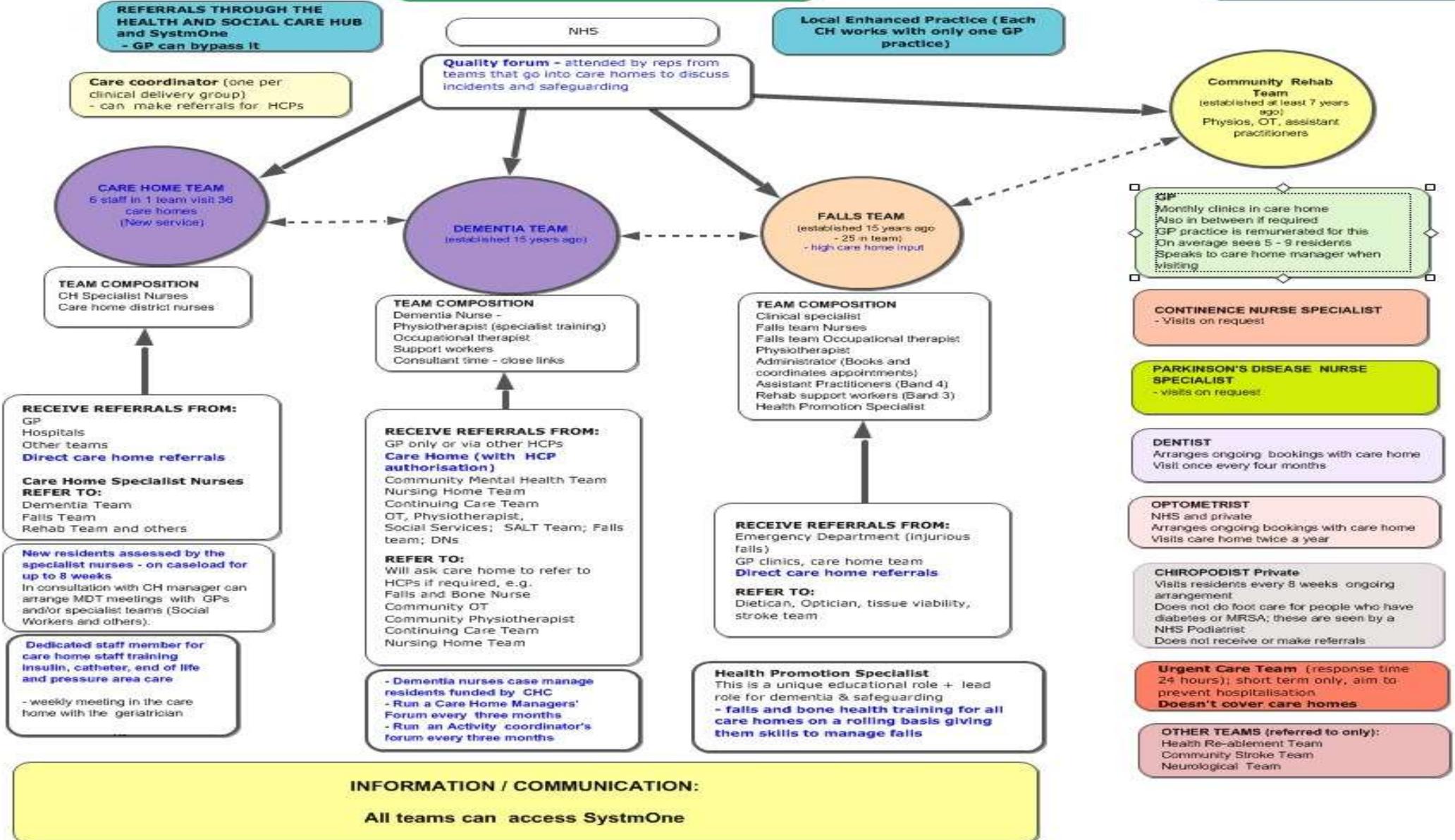
- Medication use
- Out-of-hours consultations
- Resident, carer and staff satisfaction
- Unplanned hospital admissions
- Length of hospital stay
- Costs of care to the NHS

Overview of SITE 1 (n=18)

- Most care homes work with one GP only
- 2 care home specific teams
- 1 MDT with significant level of care home input (including training for care home staff)
- 1 MDT, 2 nurse specialists with regular input
- 3 AHPs with regular ongoing input

Key:

- Blue font indicates care home specific services, direct referral, high care home input or organised training
- Circles = teams
- Squares = individual HCPs



REFERRALS THROUGH:
 - Majority through GP
 - Single point of access
 - SystmOne

Overview of SITE 2 (n=9)
 - care homes work with 1-3 GP practices
 - 1 specialist practitioner dedicated to working with care homes only on eol care
 - 2 specialist nurses, nursing and mental health teams, 2 AHPs visit on request

Named GPs receive additional payment to work with care homes
 - (1-3 practices per care home)

KEY:
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NHS

COMMUNITY NURSING TEAM
 - one team visits 6 care homes
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR for OT / PHYSIOTHERAPIST

PALLIATIVE CARE NURSE SPECIALIST
 - based in the hospice team
 - only works with care homes
 - goes into 15 care homes in site 2
 - active caseload of 5-10 residents
 - regular joint visits and meetings with other HCPs

TISSUE VIABILITY NURSE SPECIALIST

INTENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH TEAM
 - co-location with team for older people (mental health)
 - covers all care homes in site 2

CONTINUING HEALTH CARE ASSESSOR
 works for CCG and covers nursing homes checks nursing needs are met and funding is appropriate
 referrals to other services will be via the GP

6 trained nurses
 3 HCAs staff in 1 team
 (Integrated with the physiotherapists and OTs)

Works with hospice team
 Specialist nurses
 OT, SALT
 physio
 counselling
 Consultant time

TEAM COMPOSITION
 Community Psychiatric Nurses
 OTs
WORKS CLOSELY WITH:
 - mental health team focusing on older people
 - psychiatrist

GP
 Weekly clinics in care homes
 Also in between if required
 GP practice is remunerated for this
 Some care homes still have residents registered with GPs that visit on request

RECEIVE REFERRALS FROM:
 GP
 Hospitals
 Social worker
 Direct care home referrals for DNs but through GP for therapists apart from replacing equipment
EXTERNAL REFERRALS:
 Tissue viability nurse specialist
 GP
 Continuing health care assessor
 Social work care managers

RECEIVE REFERRALS FROM:
 Hospital - 20%
Direct referrals from care Homes - 75 % (including nursing homes)
 Nurse specialist e.g. neurological MDT, heart failure NS, respiratory NS, family can also refer
REFER TO:
 Other members of the hospice team, lymphoedema service, rapid response hospice at home, GP, DN, tissue viability NS, dietician, continuing nurse assessor

RECEIVE REFERRALS FROM:
 GP
 District nurses
 Nursing home may refer direct
REFER TO:
 GP for vascular team
 District nurses for residential homes and nursing homes
 Dietician

RECEIVE REFERRALS FROM:
 - mental health team
 - GP
 - hospital ward staff
 - social worker
 - memory service
Care homes have to refer via GP
REFER TO:
 Older people's team, OT, dietician, SALT

OPTICIAN
 NHS and private
 Arranges ongoing bookings with care home
 Visits care home once a year
 Personalised eye care reports in resident's notes with care plan for staff to refer to

CHIROPODIST Private
 Visits residents every 6-8 weeks ongoing arrangement
 Any referrals are made through the care home staff e.g. DN

Out of hours team covers nursing emergencies - from 5pm overnight

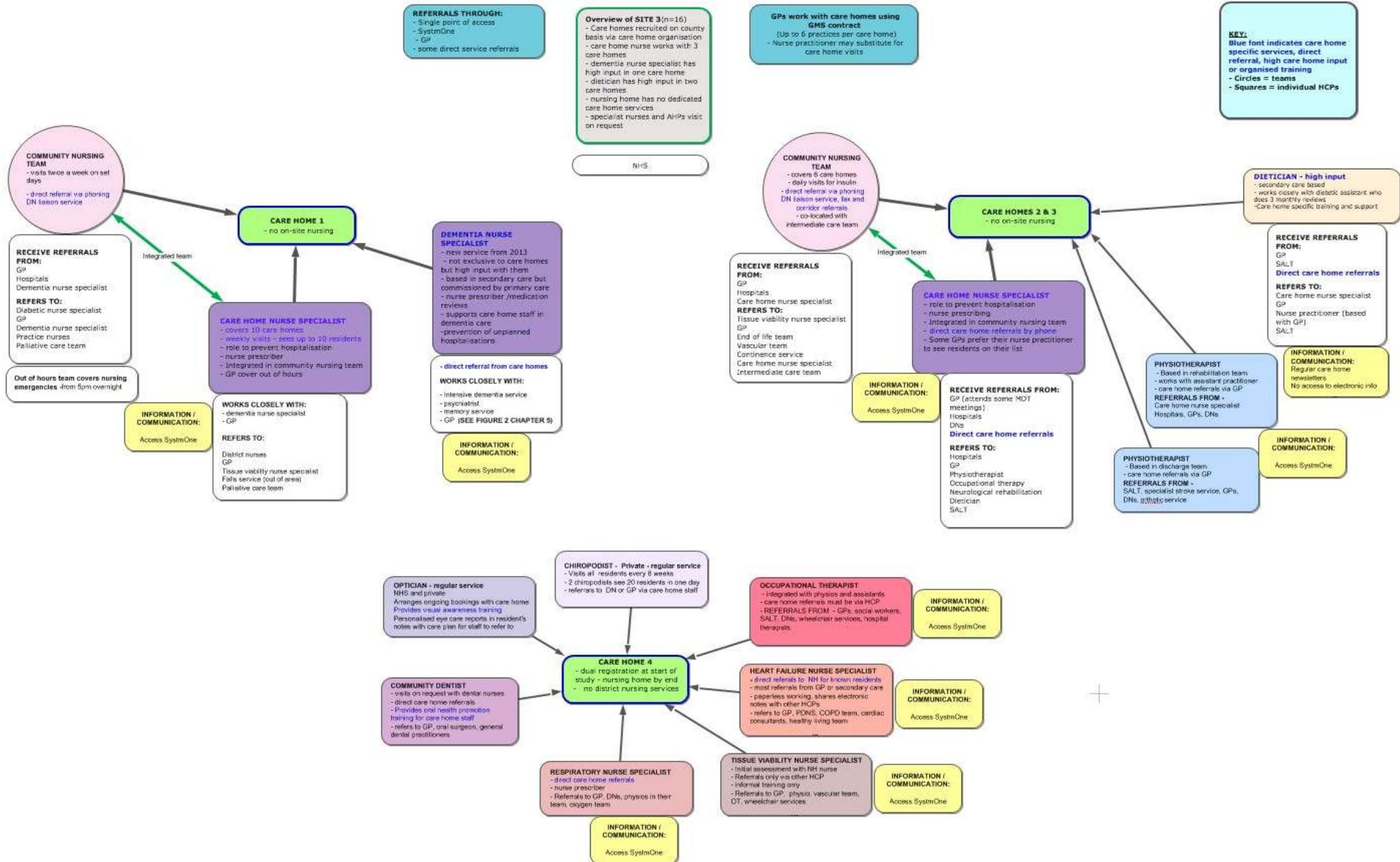
Regular training for care homes on end of life care. Topics requested by care home staff

INFORMATION / COMMUNICATION:
 Access SystmOne

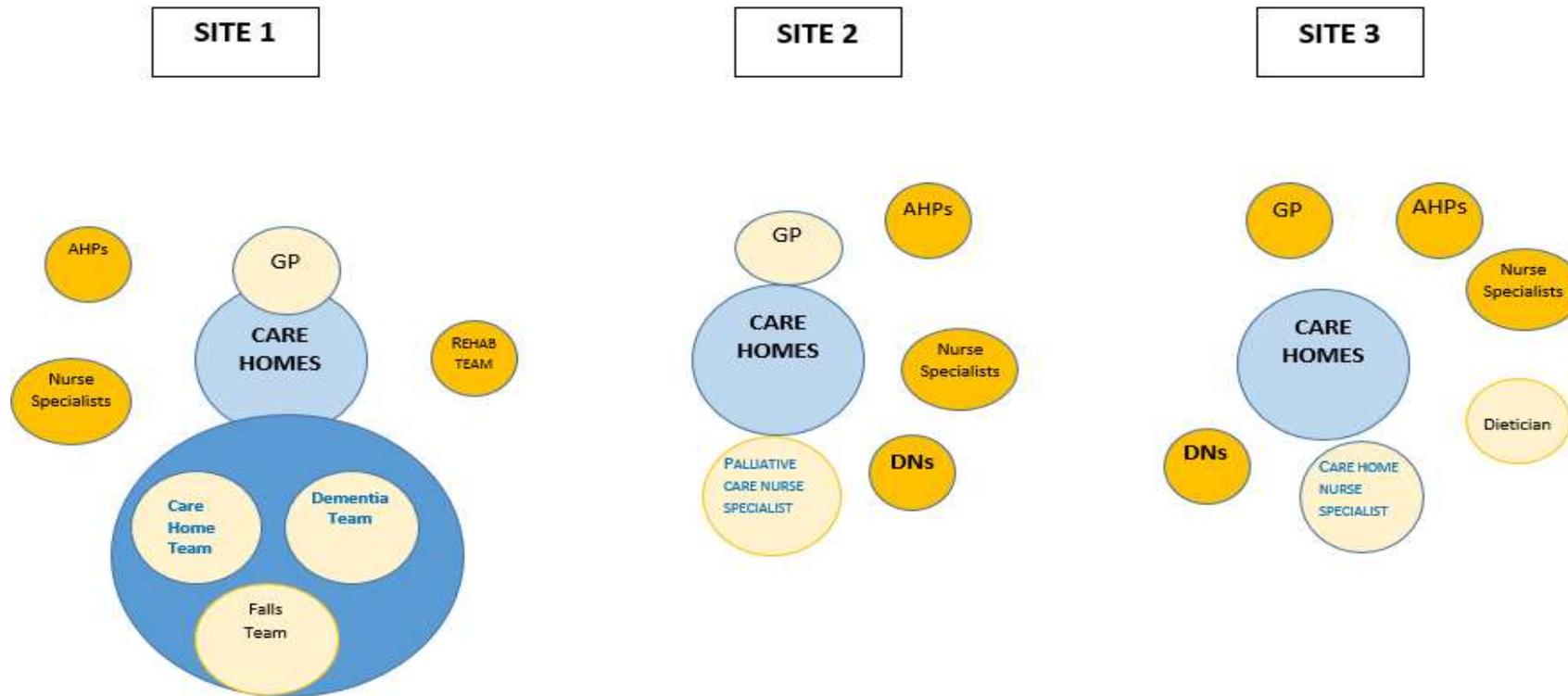
INFORMATION / COMMUNICATION:
 Paper light but uses different electronic system so not possible to share notes with other HCPs

INFORMATION / COMMUNICATION:
 Access SystmOne

OTHER TEAMS (referred to only):
 Neurological Team



Continuum of integration and referral systems



No difference in overall costs between sites (with caveats).

- Average total cost use, **per participant**, **excluding hospital stays**, was:

Site 1 £634

Site 2 £730

Site 3 £880

(With hospital admissions means rise to £1160, £1190 and £2096)

- **Site 1**, extra funding for formalised CH provision, not focussed around the GP **not more expensive**.
- **Site 2** GP costs were significantly higher , financial incentives mainstay of the service model to encourage increased GPs contact.
- **Site 3** Residents lower dependency **but** more secondary care non-admitted contacts, as well as a trend towards higher costs associated with hospital admissions. May suggest a tendency to refer residents into hospital, rather than provide care in-situ

Phase two: 3 sites

- Majority of residents were low users of NHS services
- Residents' (InterRAI data) pain, pressure ulcer prevalence, medication use and comorbidities predicted increased health service utilisation
- Prescribing profile similar to national picture
- GP most heavily utilised service (**but not in the same way**)
- **Different narratives** of how NHS work with care homes both **within** and across sites

Achieving common ground

- Supporting (incentivising) the right mix of people to be involved in the design of health care provision to care homes such as discussions before setting up a services, use of shared protocols and guidance and regular meetings ([context](#))
- Prompts co-design and alignment of health care provision with the goals of care home staff and a shared view about what needs to be done ([mechanism](#)).
- Creates services credible to care home staff and relevant for residents, with the result that there is review and anticipation of residents' needs including medication and retaining residents with complex care needs in the care home ([outcome](#)).

Translation

- Ask care homes, including residents and relatives, what works for them.
- Consider that every care home will be different – avoid “one size fits all”.
- Consider care home readiness for change.

Learning and working

- When health care provision is funded to work with care homes on a regular basis and services have developed over time, and practitioners see this as a legitimate and manageable use of their time and skills ([contexts](#))
- Staff and services are more likely to develop ways of working that seek to link residents with other NHS services and work with care home staff to resolve problems ([mechanisms](#)).
- This can lead to improved access to NHS services, crises avoided and care home staff and resident satisfaction with health care provision ([outcomes](#))

Translation

- Find way to work with care homes at an institutional level, as well as engaging with individual resident.
- Consider how the organisational structure of the care home can support care delivery, including education and training, and audit.
- Consider badging jobs/services, or parts of them, as “care home specific”.

Working within a system of care: wrap around care for older people with frailty

- Commissioning several NHS services to work with care homes on a regular basis this creates a network of expertise in the care of older people (context)
- Increases NHS Staff and services' confidence and ability to refer residents and review care to adapt patterns of service delivery (mechanisms).
- This can improve residents' access to care and reduce demand on urgent and emergency care services (outcomes).

Translation

- Consider how care home staff trigger, refer to and interact with your service.
- Consider how services with care homes interconnect, make referrals, share observations and exchange ideas.
- You can't write GPs out of service models – but you can make different (perhaps even better) use of their time.

Living and dying with dementia

- When NHS and care home staff have access to dementia expertise and *ongoing* training and support in dealing with residents' behaviours that they find challenging (**context**)
- They are likely to be confident using skills in providing dementia care and be proactive seeking support (**mechanism**)
- This reduces the need for antipsychotic prescribing and minimises the distress of residents (**outcome**).

Translation

- Whatever you choose to do needs to work for residents with dementia.
- And to link into dementia-specific care home services.

Conclusions

NHS services are more likely to work well with care homes when

- Payments and role specification endorse staff working with care homes at an institutional level as well as with individual residents.
- Activities that enable NHS staff and care home staff to co-design how they work together to improve residents' health care.
- Likely to require initiatives that focus on relationship building, and long term resource allocation by the NHS for working with and around care homes.



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OPTIMAL first look <https://www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk/programmes/hsdr/11102102/#/>

