



Phase 2 of project to explore potential for cobots in the care sector

Status update – 25/01/2019

A project delivered by Isle of Wight Council, working in conjunction with PA Consulting and Hampshire County Council with the support of Isle of Wight Carers, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers and Carers UK.



Progress update: Data to inform the commercial case and engagement with users is ongoing, with negotiations to secure a cobot for live demonstration successful.

Highlights



BENEFITS CASE: The gross benefits cases will be a key input into understanding the potential commercial proposition. Data being sourced for analysis to inform the potential gross benefits case for three use case scenarios. Informed assumptions being made with IWC and providers where data does not exist.



COBOT DEMONSTRATION: Commitment secured for demonstration from Cobot developer. Engagement workshops and demonstration to test user perception, risks, implementation challenges and potential mitigation in development for February dates.



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT: Presentation to Providers Forum scheduled for 30 January and discussions ongoing with staff at two leading care facilities and dom care providers to facilitate 1:1 staff engagement, perceptions surveys and commercial viability scoping with facility management.

Update on outcomes and methodology

The project will be measuring perception among target user groups including informal and paid carers: We will measure and report the longitudinal trend in sentiment towards cobots, including before and after engagement with a live demonstration.

A developing commercial proposition will be defined and 'willingness to buy' established: This will measure willingness of carers/end-users and dom care agencies to commit to buy/rent a cobot at different price points. Specifically, work is underway to:

- Engage with dom care agencies and residential providers to quantify the future net financial benefit of a given cobot device at a proposed price point in terms of its ability to impact workforce availability (reduce injury/illness, reduce need for second carer, etc.)
- Engage with end users, councils and Community Equipment providers to discuss interest in cobots of given functionality at different price points to inform a view of the willingness of the market to purchase these devices; what would they pay and how many would they buy to supply to their customers?