

# North Somerset Council – Hydration innovation

Social Care Digital Innovation Programme (SCDIP) 2019-21 progress report

Development and implementation of a progressive web-based application to support carers to deliver effective hydration care and prevent dehydration in care homes

## Progress update

Following completion of the procurement process, the project team successfully appointed a digital developer to assist in the development and implementation of a progressive web-based application to support carers to prevent dehydration in care home residents.

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 the kick off meeting between the developer and the project team was deferred from April until May. This delay triggered a review of the implementation phase timeline. At the meeting the project team and the developer agreed new milestones which are achievable and realistic. The project team is confident that the project aims are deliverable by the end of March 2021.

Verbal agreement has been reached between the owner of the ROC to drink assessment tool and the project team regarding the intellectual property rights of any product emerging from the development of the application.

## Project plan and methodology

The developer will use a range of readily available tried and tested products to build the architecture of the application. This will support the fast-paced development required to produce a minimum viable product which can be tested by carers and care home residents in late June 2020. From July to September 2020 the application will be fully tried and tested in one 78 bed care home in North Somerset. This work will focus on user experiences to ensure the application is usable and well received by both carers and residents.

The discovery phase of the project focussed on engaging care home residents, their families and carers in identifying what is best practice in improving hydration levels in care home residents. The project team is committed to replicating this way of working and with support from the developer will focus on the users experience of the application, this is crucial when considering rolling out and sustaining the application in a wider market.

## How will the application improve hydration levels in care home residents?

The application will provide carers with easily accessible information regarding an individual's hydration needs contained within their profile in the application. The information held within the profile will be gathered when an individual enters the care home and will be updated regularly. Every aspect of an individual's hydration needs will be included, from functional ability to personal preferences. Allowing staff easy access to the information will remove the need for handovers and searching through paper records.

## Sharing learning

Throughout the discovery phase and into the early stages of the implementation phase the project team have valued many opportunities to share their learning on several different platforms:

- presenting to the elected members of North Somerset Council
- presenting at the digital networking day at the Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT) in London
- presenting to the Non-Executive Directors of NHSE
- publishing an article in OT News, a monthly publication sent to members of the RCOT.

## Next steps

Over the coming months the project team will carry out a case control study. The aim of the study will be to document and share all aspects of learning from the project and to demonstrate the effectiveness of implementing the application within the care home environment.