



CASE STUDY JUNE 2017

Community Integrated Team Networks

As each of the five Community Integrated Teams (CIT) became more established, and the work within the Multi Disciplinary Teams drew in more teams and services, the definition of a single 'team' didn't reflect the ever increasing scope of the work being undertaken.

Services including those provided by pharmacy, mental health, palliative care nurses, practice nurses and managers, which are not co-located with the community nurses and social care staff, but vital to the work, needed re-defining.

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What we did:

It was essential to maintain the place-based care element of the model, though reflect that many services within each of the localities are providing care and support to the same populations as defined by the CITs. By creating networks of staff and services in a locality, it was possible to increase the scope of the model, put more staff and services in touch with one another, and strengthen the locality sense of service and care delivery. Monthly locality events were opened up to staff and services that aligned to the Sunderland Care Model, and new connections between these helped improve access and support for the people living within the locality.

Reviewing the CIT Networks:

All five localities are at different points on their journey towards increased cooperation and integration. Locality leadership is essential to ensure that the networks function in a meaningful and positive way, breaking down traditional barriers between services and organisations, and increasing locality knowledge between these.

Time spent bringing people together to share and learn is key, as is bringing all localities together periodically to learn from each other.

Senior support to enable hard-pressed staff and services the time to develop meaningful working relationships is also of great importance, even when the initial return on investment can be a challenge to quantify.

The outcome:

As All Together Better continues to evolve, the creation of the CIT Networks enables other services to align and access colleagues within their area. Services are not required to change referral pathways or operational requirements, but are requested to participate and seek locality solutions for local issues. A workforce led solution at a local level seeks to embed change, rather than top-down re-organisation and formal frameworks between organisations.

All Together Better

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All Together Better is joining up health and social care services in Sunderland to give local people the best care possible, keeping them well and out of hospital if they don't need to be there.

Find out more at www.atbsunderland.org.uk

To see who is working in your CIT network, search '[networks](#)' on the All Together Better website.



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atb@nhs.net