**Introduction**

The CCG and Local Authority have agreed to a collaboration with My Improvement Network, to provide RITA systems to a pilot group of care homes to show the benefits of Digital Reminiscence within the Care Sector. The project hopes to show how the digital system could help to support care and reduce hospital admissions and significantly improve care in selected homes.

**RITA**

RITA is a digital solution for homes to work with people with complex dementia and behaviours, it empowered stimulation for residents and enabled support to be provided in a cohort of residents, instead of an individual needing one-to-one commissioned support.

RITA is a 22” touchscreen tablet and 10” tablet which is preloaded with relevant and appropriate content to support meaningful engagement in all settings. The pre-loaded system can be used by residents themselves or with nurses, therapists, carers and family members to engage residents with a wide variety of activities including relaxation, music, photos, interactive games, famous speeches and radio shows and a wide selection of movies. It also has an easily utilised “life collage or life story book” which can be completed with relatives or staff to further personalise care. It has also been effective in calming a distressed or anxious resident, as its bright and varied content has something for everyone, quickly accessible at the touch of button. No internet is required, keeping it safe and secure and always usable when needed.

The CCG has chosen chose RITA as it was already a key feature in NLAG Hospitals and in some other hospital settings and we can build on a system-wide approach locally, so when patients were discharged or returned to their care home, they could continue to benefit from RITA. Also, in terms of the life book facility within the system and that it is Cloud based, health and social care staff could access accurate and timely person-centred information to deliver better outcomes for individuals.

**The project**

The project will work around ten units purchased at a cost of £75,000. These will be made available to a range residential and nursing homes at no cost to providers. The digital programme allows people with dementia have access to tablets and the system called RITA (Reminiscent Interactive Therapy Assistant) which uses sound and vision to stimulate people’s thoughts and ideas. Through the tablets people are able to listen and watch all of their old favourites to evoke happy memories, which has a huge impact on the wellbeing and behaviour of people suffering from dementia, by engaging with the past they can contribute to the present.

As part of the project N Lincs are looking for interested parties/ homes from a range of settings including residential, nursing, specialist care, and community settings, supporting people with dementia through day opportunities.

The project will:

* Hold an initial event giving an overview and presentation of the RITA system, to engage with all providers and to demonstrate the positive outcomes and achievement.
* Provide awareness sessions and training to those services who wish to be part of project RITA, highlighting real life examples and outlining the improved outcomes that can be achieved for individuals, their careers and for the organisation, which can make best use of its resources.
* Monitor the use and impact of Rita in each setting, including the impact on staff
* Expect participating providers to engage with the LA ad CC and other providers to highlight their experience of the system and report on any changes or impact from the system.

**Project Evaluation**

The impact of Project RITA will be shared with management teams, the enhanced care home group, the integrated commissioning executive and the dementia steering group.

The planned evaluation would focus on impact on

* hospital admissions and falls
* Site use of RITA and its effect on individuals’ wellbeing and quality of life.
* Safeguarding incidents.
* Staff moral and retention

North Lincs is keen to ensure that this project supports sustainable change and develop digital provision locally.