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Our Aim

An Integrated Postural Management Service; one point of access; effective and efficient use of resources, improved experiences and outcomes for clients and carers to reduce health inequalities.

Fife staged seating range

Background

Evidence shows that changes in body shape result in poor physical health, breathing difficulties, impaired eating/drinking, and can lead to premature death.

Effective Postural Management can:

- Prevent body shape distortion
- Prevent hospital admissions & need for surgical interventions
- Reduce need for costly care packages
- Maximise function & improve quality of life

In Fife, Postural Management was historically provided by both NHS & Social Work therapists working separately which lead to:

- Lack of coordinated goals & duplication of work
- Inefficient use of resources
- Inequity of provision
- Confusing pathways of care & lengthy waiting times.

"Introducing a timely review process has led to cost savings. The early detection of change means small adaptations can be made to chairs instead of costly replacement"

Equipment Store budget holder

"...faster response times both in appointments and delivery of equipment than under the old system thus promoting the service users health and wellbeing"

Care Home manager

Stage 1



Stage 2



"The support from the postural management team is second to none. The breadth of experience and knowledge within the team is exceptional. They are always approachable and willing to assist with the more complex cases"

Social Work Occupational Therapist



Before

After

WHEELCHAIR

None Before



After

SUPPORTED SITTING

24 Hour Postural Management for James

Minimises pain
Maintains skin integrity
Allows safe eating
Prevents breathing problems
Gives him Quality of Life



Before

After

SUPPORTED LYING

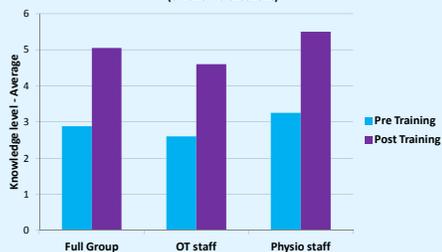
"The new pathway allows us to concentrate our time on clients with highly complex needs & gives us some capacity to provide consultative advice to mainstream therapists....."

Specialist Postural Management Physio

Methodology

- Training package designed and delivered to 60 OT's & Physio's within NHS and social work. Increased knowledge was required to enable them to meet the needs of clients with non-complex Postural Management needs. (Fig 1)
- Specialist Postural Management Therapists from both organisations started working jointly to concentrate their skills on the most complex clients
- Core stock equipment established, including a staged seating range, to reduce costs and increase recycling opportunities (pictured above)
- Developed and implemented a new Postural Management pathway across the Health and Social Care partnership including a standardised screening process (see diagram)

Fig 1 – Self evaluation of postural management knowledge (0 none – 6 excellent)



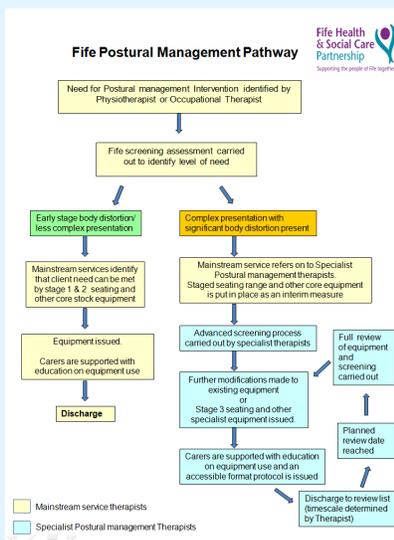
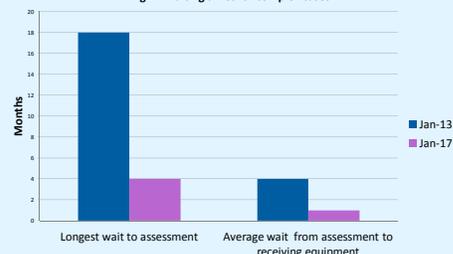
"The whole process from start to finish with Physio and OT working in partnership was efficient and concise"

Parent of service user

Outcomes

- Up-skilling of mainstream health & social care therapists has allowed them to meet the needs of less complex Postural Management cases, thus reducing referrals to specialist Therapists
- Specialist Postural Management Therapists now focus on the most complex cases resulting in a significantly reduced waiting time for specialist assessment & equipment provision (Fig 2)
- Staged seating and core stock reduced bespoke and 'one off' equipment orders and allows greater recycling/re-issuing of equipment. This procurement efficiency has realised financial savings of 10- 15% and improved stock availability has reduced waiting time to equipment provision (Fig 2)
- The introduction of a review process allows cases to be discharged, with the reassurance that future posture changes will be detected and addressed during review. This creates more efficient throughput which shortens waiting time
- Standardised documentation to underpin pathway has reduced non-contact hours and enhanced patient journey
- Families/carers are fully involved in our joint goal setting, along with other members of the wider multi-agency team as appropriate. This ensures full engagement of families/carers and improves equipment usage

Fig 2 - Waiting times for complex cases



Conclusion

The introduction of an integrated Postural Management pathway across Health and Social Care has created a coordinated service, reduced duplication and seen timely, cost effective interventions for clients with Postural Management needs

Although preventative health benefits are difficult to quantify, anecdotal evidence shows that investing in supportive equipment in the short term prevents and slows down postural deterioration, which prevents hospital admissions, improves quality of life and reduces the needs for costly care packages in the longer term.