

Assistive Technology

How the use can provide greater insight and
companionship

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Current Welsh Picture

- Made up of integrated and specialist teams across social care/health
- Housing and third sector are playing increasing role
- Starting to see shift towards digital provision of monitoring and the procurement of both digital hardwired/dispersed solutions
- Localised partnerships are being further imbedded
- National drive to share knowledge and experience



ABUHB Locality

- Gwent Regional Partnership Board/Regional Dementia Board commissioned a two phase feasibility study considering TECS for users with Dementia
- ICF has funded a regional bid to commence digital upgrade
- ICF has funded a 2 year Virtual Reality Reminiscence Project
- ICF has funded the delivery of companion pets and babies
- Regional partnerships are currently being designed around the assessment, provision and monitoring of TECS. Currently a tripartite between Monmouthshire, Newport & Caerphilly





What is the need?

- It is expected that the number of people with dementia will rise to over 1 million by 2025 and by 2 million in 2051.
- This equates to 1 in 6 people over 80 receiving a diagnosis
- 1 in 4 hospital beds are occupied by people living with dementia over the age of 65
- 69% of people in Care Homes have dementia
- 60% of people receiving home-care services are living with dementia
- <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/about-us/news-and-media/facts-media>).
- www.attain.co.uk).





What difference can we make?



Companion Pets in the community



Mrs P

- After some initial hesitation she built up rapport and was grooming the cat
- Family informed that she was calm and happy
- They want to repeat the experience to understand how she responds and any benefits



Breathing babies

Jayla



Current feedback

- The atmosphere is very calm on most occasions as there is presence of babies around.
- The residents eat their breakfast whilst taking care of the babies they also have them sleeping in their arms in bed.



Next steps

- Consider the practicalities of further adoption in the community following success in care homes
- Relate provision to the desired outcomes
- Where best to provide babies/companion pets – comfort, general anxiety and social isolation
- Review Caerphilly provision for anxiety/loneliness – initial review supports a reduction of approx. 30% in call volumes to monitoring centre



Virtual Reality

- Learn from the lessons of Digital Communities Wales and the local pilot provide by Torfaen Connects
- Build on the success demonstrated by Horsham District Council the first council in the UK to introduce the new form of therapy in 2017
- Project Board made up from social care, digital leads, health, RSL's and 3rd sector all involved
- Use a pain scale such as Abbey for users with dementia or communication difficulties
- ATic project evaluation



The Assistive Technologies innovation Centre (ATiC)

- Designed to support research collaborations in health and wellbeing across Wales
- Builds on the University Wales Trinity St David's record of delivery on developing research and innovation in the field of health and social care
- Employs research to better support the implementation of new and improved products
- Works with a cluster of strategic partners from academia, public, private and the third sector



Tea for two

Kimberley Littlemore's collaboration with ATiC that documents the daily struggle of living with Alzheimer's disease



Any questions?

Thank you

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