

Just Checking Assessment

Reassessing care needs at The Mews

Introduction

'The Mews' is a cluster of six purpose-built properties for adults with learning disabilities and autism. A referral was made to Just Checking to assess four individuals with high cost care packages residing at 'The Mews'. Each property had an assigned overnight sleep-in, and access to a central staff hub providing additional overnight support. These arrangements were initially intended to be short term, with planned reviews after a transition period. However, due to staff changes, the reviews were delayed. A returning social worker initiated a reassessment to determine if current support levels were still appropriate.

Objectives

The goal was to evaluate if the existing support was appropriate, and to evidence progress since the last review. The review aimed to assess the current daytime and overnight support usage, and to explore if the use of Technology Enabled Care (TEC) would be appropriate to support any changes moving forwards.

Method

Just Checking heat, light, motion and door sensors were installed throughout each property and where appropriate, sound, epilepsy and bed weight sensors were used to capture activities of daily living. One individual removed consent shortly after installation, and their system was removed. Data was collected over a four week assessment period for the remaining three individuals.

Results

Meetings were held with the lead social worker and the care provider, with all parties agreeing that the level of support in place was greater than required. The data particularly highlighted that overnight support was significantly under utilised.

The findings indicated the potential to reduce the number of overnight sleep-in staff from three to one initially (net saving of £111,453 per annum*) with further potential to remove all sleep-ins and utilise support from the staff hub (net saving of £173,078*). To achieve these changes, a technology enabled approach would need to be adopted to ensure responsive support could be provided when needed.

Next Steps

Risk and support planning is enabling a redesign of the care model. The use of real time remote monitoring using sensors and smart devices (Just Roaming) is being explored as a means to meet overnight support needs as they arise. This will enable the least restrictive support, whilst actualising the potential overnight support model changes.

*figures based on £61,625 per annum per sleep-in and includes the technology costs

