

Transforming Integrated Care in the Community (TICC)

Evaluating the implementation of the Buurtzorg model with community health and social care teams



Background

Provision of health and social care for an ageing population presents significant challenges.

Under the Buurtzorg model of care neighbourhood-based, mixed-skilled teams (including nurses) are afforded more autonomy, and given responsibility for all aspects of service delivery.

Previous evaluations of this new way of working have reported benefits for both care recipients and providers (Drennan, et al., 2018).

Transforming Integrated Care in the Community (TICC) is an Interreg2seas funded, four-year project focusing on the implementation, and evaluation of this model within three European countries (France, Belgium and the UK). Led by HZ University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands, **Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT)** is Sponsor of the UK evaluation, which has involved collaboration with **Medway Community Healthcare (MCH)**.

Aims

From the experience of patients, carers and community health and social care staff, to compare implementation of the Buurtzorg model (intervention) against standard care (comparison).

Results

Participant recruitment and data collection is continuing, and new Buurtzorg teams are in the process of set-up. Data collection will continue until December 2020, and analysis is being undertaken by the lead evaluation partners.

Method

Patients, carers and staff are recruited from selected intervention and comparison sites situated across the county of Kent, UK (KCHFT target n=100 participants). Data collection and analysis involves the use of mixed-methods. Anonymised participants are asked to complete a series of questionnaires at specific points over a maximum of two years, and help is available from the research team to support the participation of patients and carers. Patient data is also collected from GP surgeries regarding changes in care, and yearly focus groups are conducted with intervention teams. Analysis of the data is completed by the lead evaluation partners. Research ethics and Health Research Authority (HRA) approval was obtained.

Discussion and Conclusion

To address the challenges of delivering health and social care in the community KCHFT research team is closely working with service users, community teams, and partners to evaluate the implementation of a new model of care. The results from this evaluation will not only inform decisions within KCHFT regarding the future delivery of community-based services, but will contribute to the aims of the wider TICC project and the development of a blueprint that will act as a guide for others looking to adopt the principles of Buurtzorg.

Sponsorship of this UK evaluation also demonstrates KCHFT's growth as a research active Trust.

References:
 Drennan, V. M., Calestani, M., Ross, F., West, P., 2018. Tackling the workforce crisis in district nursing: can the Dutch Buurtzorg model offer a solution and a better patient experience? A mixed methods case study. *BMJ Open* 2018; 88. Available at: <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/bmjopen/8/6/e021931.full.pdf> (Accessed 29 July 19).

Authors:
 Dr Daniel Da Costa – Research Assistant, Registered Mental Health Nurse
 Lee Tomlinson – Chief Investigator, Lead Nurse – Research
 Bethany Baldock – Research Facilitator

