Virtual Wards- ensuring they work well for people with learning disabilities and autistic people

Valuing People Alliance project for the Health and Wellbeing Alliance

What are Virtual Wards?

NHS@Home
Virtual Wards

- Sometimes called Hospital at home

- People get the healthcare they need at home instead of in hospital

Virtual wards: How they work

A patient is assessed for at home virtual ward care

If suitable, the patient is cared for at home with the aid of a treatment plan and monitoring device

Patients are monitored 24/7 remotely. Continuous data is sent to the hospital for review
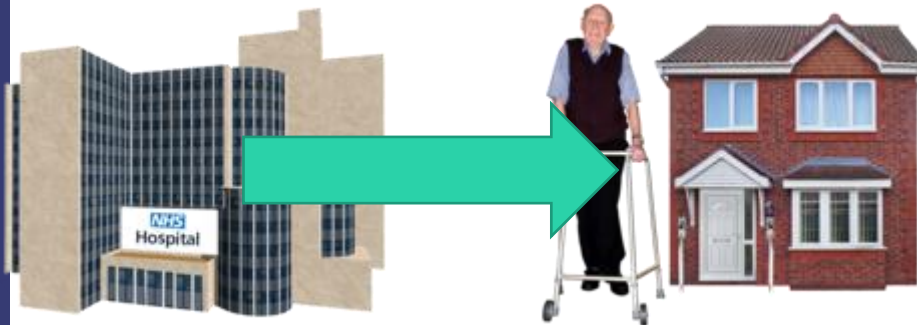
Community health staff respond to monitoring alerts & deliver care in line with a treatment plan

The patient is discharged from the virtual ward once deemed well enough

When might someone have treatment in a virtual ward?

- Virtual wards are for people who are very unwell and need medical treatment, or people who are frail and might get more sick in hospital

- People might get treated at home to stop them going into hospital

OR

- They might get treated at home after going into hospital

What might happen with a virtual ward?

- The person gets care from different types of doctors and nurses

- This might be having blood tests

- Or taking blood pressure

- Or having medication

What might happen with a virtual ward?

- Many virtual wards use technology so medical teams can monitor recovery

- Each day they have a video call

- or a home visit to check how they are

(this is like a doctor doing a ward round in a hospital)

Why is the NHS using virtual wards?

- Some people feel happier and get better quicker at home

- It can also help make space for more sick people to be in hospital

- They have mostly been used for people with lung infections

- And older people who might be frail

Making sure people with learning disabilities benefit

- People with learning disabilities experience health inequalities (die younger than other people)

- What should healthcare staff do so people with learning disabilities get the right care in a "virtual ward"?