



# Assistive Technology Partnership Board

## Report

**Title:** Assistive Technology progress report  
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### 1. AT retail platform

- Business case for procurement of public online self-assessment tool for AT due to go to AFW Board this month for comments. Equipment Joint Mgt Group has already agreed to in principal. Exemption from standing orders being sought.
- Equipment retail providers, including Community Equipment Services – Nottingham Rehab Supplies, to be invited on at the end of May to a provider forum to discuss options for improving equipment retail in Bucks and also explain BCC position around online self assessment function. This event has been put back a month due to procurement engagement.

### 2. Telehealth platform

- Final draft of strategic business case to be postponed until later in the summer after consultation with Asst Director Joint Care. This is in order

to ensure all relevant parties are engaged with and that the document is fully developed. It was recognised in monthly Telehealth group that each of the health programme boards and a greater number of GPs need to be engaged with. Given the large changes facing the NHS, getting access to programme boards and GP time for consultation is taking some time. AT Manager has presented concept for Telehealth to 2 x GP localities and Adult Commissioners. A request has also been made in writing to each CCG for dedicated GP time per month to provide clinical steer on priority areas for future Telehealth projects.

- Speech and Language Therapy project now has a monthly operational group to drive activity forward. Video conferencing will hopefully be established by May - Bucks Healthcare Trust has agreed to fund and maintain this equipment. Community licence procured to allow unlimited access for patients for 3 months when trialling therapy software. This will help reduce need to procure expensive hardware. Bucks New University (BNU) is now also involved in evaluation of this project to support further rollout.
- Bucks Urgent Care Telehealth project has now finished. The units they were managing have all been consolidated within Community Equipment Services and are due to be redistributed to the Bucks Healthcare Community Nursing Teams. There will be an operational project group established for this as well to mirror Speech Therapy format.
- Monthly Telehealth Advisory and Overview Group established with NHS clinical and commissioning representation to drive agenda forward. Terms of reference and membership have been finalised and a plan of meetings at Rapid House have been established each month for 12/13. Awaiting confirmation of nominated GP to work with this group and AT Manager to help develop business case.

### **3. Raise AT awareness with key groups**

- Additional AT Assessment Worker now trained and leading on assessments. Existing AT Assessment Worker managing operational and process improvements within service. AT Project Officer post that has been vacant for 12 months is currently being advertised.
- In discussion with Bucks New University to look at CPD and training opportunities for social workers and OT's to encourage them to undertake telecare assessments. Long term, I would envisage that this could be applied to health practitioners. A/W proposal from Bucks New University to take forward with BCC Learning and Development Team and Service Provision.

### **4. Evaluation and economic development**

- A/W proposal from Bucks New University as research and evaluation partner on our forthcoming Telehealth development work and other new associated AT work. Bucks New University
- We are part of the organising committee for '2012 Paralympics Meet the Buyer Event' at Stoke Mandeville Stadium in Sept 12. This is an event where industry meets social healthcare practitioners to discuss, demonstrate and develop new advances in technology. It is being linked to the NSIC and has a Guttman theme due to Stoke Mandeville Hospital National Spinal Injuries Clinic birth of the Paralympics. There is also wider work underway looking at economic legacy from this event, such as independent living opportunities. This initiative now has backing from senior BCC figures and a working group is underway to develop programme and details around the event. BCC AT is involved in this development which is looking at EU level promotion of Bucks as a technology research centre.

#### **Next steps: -**

- Meet with equipment retail providers to gauge next steps for installation

of self assessment tool and wider equipment retail development.

- Meet with Aylesbury Vale Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Chief Executive to establish Telehealth GP Lead.
- Review Bucks New University (BNU) research, evaluation and training proposal with Service Provision and Learning and Development.
- Develop spending plan to clarify areas where grant can be utilised.