

7. Data, IT and technology: Linked health and social care data sets; Access to the care record and secure email; Better use of technology in care homes.

When will EHCH be implemented? As part of the [NHS Long Term Plan](#) (2019), the Ageing Well programme intends to roll out EHCH across England by 2024, commencing in 2020. See appendix 1 of full document for further details of the roll out.

Full document can be found here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/the-framework-for-enhanced-health-in-care-homes-v2-0.pdf>

Whilst the EHCH contract and guidance is aimed at care homes, the wider EHCH framework could be extended to support people living in extra care housing and in supported living arrangements, or to those who require support in their own home.

Summary Points

- EHCH moves away from more traditional models of providing care.
- EHCH is a joined up and integrated / multidisciplinary care approach which centres on the needs of individual residents, their families and care home staff. It would allow care providers, commissioners and clinicians to work together sharing information and best practice. The aims of this approach are to deliver high quality personalised care; access to the right care and the right health services; to enable effective use of resources e.g. reducing unnecessary hospital admissions.
- The framework aims to improve and strengthen the NHS's support for people who live and work in and around care homes.
- EHCH will be implemented via seven care elements and their associated sub elements.
- EHCH applies to all residents of care homes regardless of how they are funded. The wider EHCH framework could be extended to people living in supported living schemes or in their own homes.
- EHCH is part of the NHS Long-term plan (Ageing Well Programme) and will be rolled out in 2020.

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Keeping staff up to date with changes or requirements taking place within the care sector.

The Framework for Enhanced Health in Care Homes, Version 2 March 2020

NHS England and NHS Improvement



By Mike Cleasby, Quality Director of NCG

Passion | Empowerment | Respect | Collaboration

What is the Enhanced Health in Care Homes Framework (EHCH)?

EHCH is a model of providing integrated and proactive care that is centred on the needs of individual residents, their families and care home staff. EHCH is a whole system collaborative approach which mainly aims to:

- a. deliver high-quality personalised care within care homes;
- b. provide, wherever possible, for individuals who (temporarily or permanently), live in a care home access to the right care and the right health services in the place of their choosing; and
- c. enable effective use of resources by reducing unnecessary conveyances to hospitals, hospital admissions, and bed days whilst ensuring the best care for people living in care homes.

This framework is intended to provide context, best practice guidance and methods of delivery to support implementation of this model and describes additional actions that commissioners and care home providers can take to provide high-quality care for people living in care homes.

Who does EHCH service apply to? The EHCH service applies equally to people who self-fund their care and to people whose care is funded by the NHS or their local authority: everyone has the right to high quality NHS services. It is equally applicable to homes for people with learning disabilities and/or mental health needs and should not be interpreted as only pertaining to care homes for older people.

However, secure mental health units are not in scope. Whilst the EHCH contract and guidance is aimed at care homes, the wider EHCH framework could be extended to support people living in extra care housing and in supported living arrangements, or to those who require support in their own home.

What are the main care elements of the framework?

Under the EHCH, care providers work in partnership with local GPs, Primary Care Networks* (PCNs), community healthcare providers, hospitals, social care, individuals and their families, and wider public services to deliver care in care homes. Services are 'wrapped around' the individual and their family, who are connected to and supported by their local community. Proactive, personalised care and support becomes the norm.

The EHCH comprises seven care elements and associated sub-elements which when implemented will deliver person-centred care that promotes a resident's independence in a coordinated and sustainable way.

1. Enhanced primary care support: Each care home aligned to a named PCN, which leads a weekly multidisciplinary 'home round'; Medicine reviews; Hydration and nutrition support; Oral health care; Access to out-of-hours/urgent care when needed.

2. Multi-disciplinary team (MDT) support including coordinated health and social care:

Expert advice and care for those with the most complex needs; Continence promotion and management; Flu prevention and management; Wound care – leg and foot ulcers; Helping professionals, carers, and individuals with needs navigate the health and care system.

3. Falls prevention, Reablement, and rehabilitation including strength and balance:

Rehabilitation/reablement services; Falls, strength, and balance; Developing community assets to support resilience and independence

4. High quality palliative and end-of-life care, Mental health, and dementia care:

Palliative and end-of-life care, including advanced care planning; Mental health care; Dementia care.

5. Joined-up commissioning and collaboration between health and social care:

Co-production with providers and networked care homes; Shared contractual mechanisms to promote integration (including Continuing Healthcare); Shared contractual mechanisms to promote integration (including Continuing Healthcare); Access to appropriate housing options.

6. Workforce development: Training and development for social care provider staff; Joint workforce planning across all sectors.