

# Health improvements through collaborative working



**£250k  
saved in  
Lanarkshire**



**National Procurement**



**Partners involved in project**  
NHS Lanarkshire  
Summerlee Care Home, North Lanarkshire  
David Walker Gardens Home, South Lanarkshire  
Health Foundation

Incontinence is common amongst care home residents. Associated risks include falls, infection and skin damage, in addition to a significant clinical and financial impact. Alice Macleod, Senior Nurse in National Procurement and her colleagues noticed a year-on-year rise in the purchasing on incontinence products, and began investigating areas where improvements could be made. Upon receiving Health Foundation funding, National Procurement began a partnership with NHS Lanarkshire and local care professionals to devise a **‘Contenance Promotion Care Bundle’** and promote improvement capability of care home staff.

The project focussed on best practice in health, care, medication review and diet, and was trialled at two care homes in Lanarkshire. Engagement of care home staff ensured universal adoption of the model for improvement, and qualitative and quantitative data was recorded over a year from the initial implementation in September 2016.

Over a year the project showed that **low-cost quality improvement** interventions can promote continence in care home residents, **improving safety** and reducing absorbency pad usage. The pilot care homes also saw a significant reduction in falls, skin damage and hospital admissions for falls and urinary tract infections. The Contenance Promotion Care Bundle is now being rolled out across NHS Lanarkshire, and NHS Scotland Chief Executives have recommended roll out across all health boards.

**Interested in finding out more? Contact [nss.communications@nhs.net](mailto:nss.communications@nhs.net)**

