Assistive Technology

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Overview:

AT and Telecare services often sit within Occupational Therapy (OT), as they provide objective data to support the assessment of function and need.

What are we concerned about? Bromley is a local Carelink operator that needs developing and transforming.

The aim is to design and develop an Assistive Technology Transformation Workstream that is integrated and aligned with the Council's Digital Transformation Strategy along with the One Bromley Vision.

What is Assistive Technology (AT)?

It is the connected / digital technologies that have emerged in recent years as having the potential to transform the way that people are supported.

Identifying problems that arise before they become an emergency will play a bigger part in Telecare.

Improving quality of life
Enabling domestic activities
Supporting learning and skills

Home adaptations

Portable devices

Functional aids

Digital communication systems

Individual strengths, ambitions, health and challenges
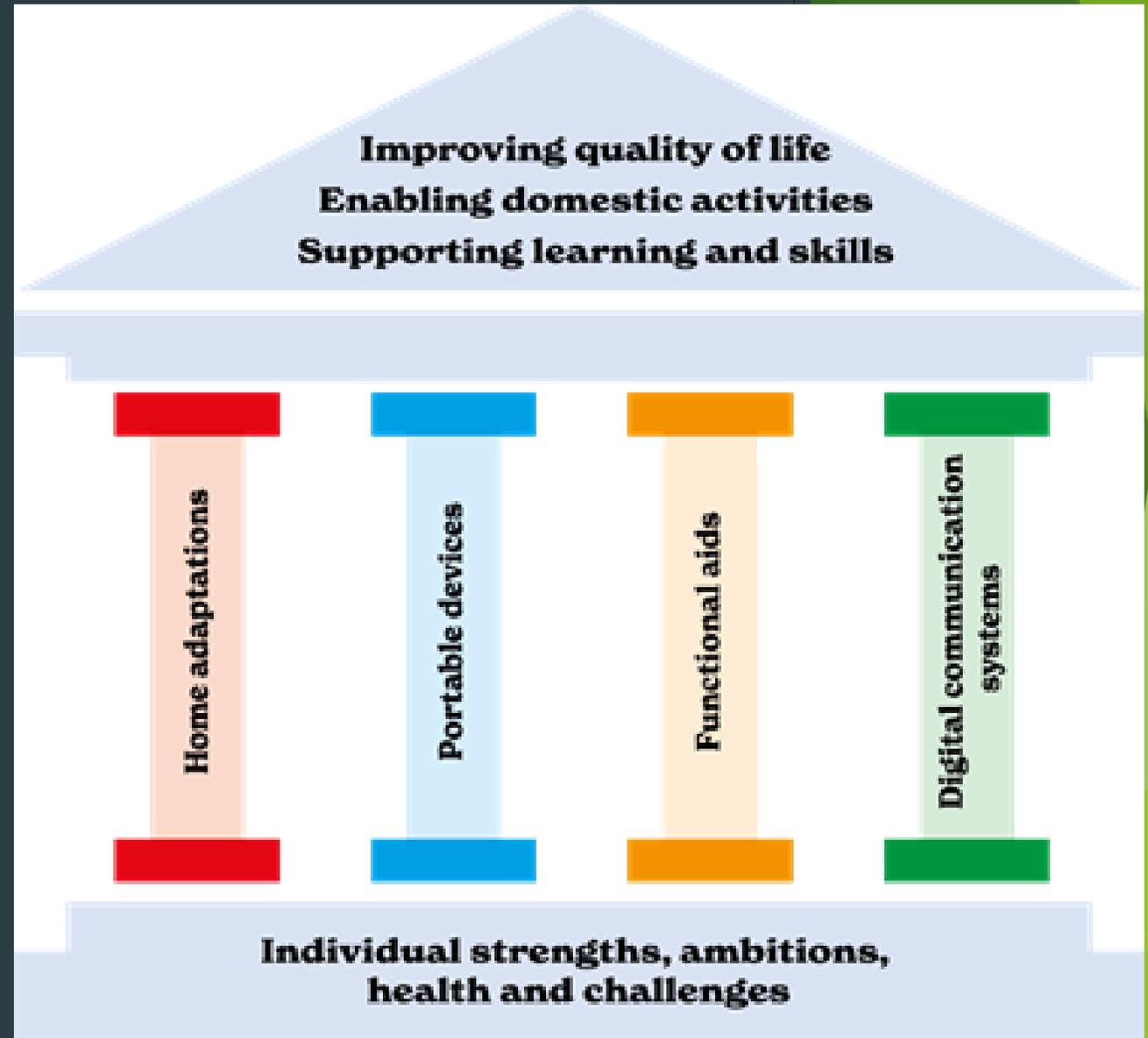
AT – How do you eat an Elephant..?

Project progress to date:

- ▶ Mapped existing AT / telecare offer, including the completion of a staff survey across organisations to ascertain the current understanding of AT.

- ▶ Undertaken a key stakeholder forum.

- ▶ Small scale trials of new devices to support hospital discharge and community based residents.

- ▶ Identified the scope of AT as an enabling tool to promote independence, health & wellbeing, create savings and cost avoidance in care packages.

- ▶ Identified immediate opportunities to improve the operation and potential of the local AT and telecare services.

The Enhanced Care Pathway

▶ Activity monitoring systems have been installed within 24-48 hours post hospital discharge for selected clients as part of the assessment to establish a comprehensive 24-hour picture of need.

▶ With the use of these AT devices we can ensure that proportional care is established, often with the reduction of waking 24 hr care for example. 24 hour behaviour analytics provide considerable reassurance to families when establishing the appropriate care required. Ethics and informed consent are at the forefront of this work.

▶ To date the trial has now progressed to include 13 residents with the following efficiencies achieved in the remainder of this financial year:

- £3,000 of immediate savings to the NHS with the potential for much more with further investigations.

- £18,986 savings to LBB in the reduction of care packages.

- £28,694 cost avoidance to LBB in prevention and avoidance of long term residential care.

Clients with Autism or Learning Disabilities (LD)

▶ Currently working with the Oxleas adult LD team to identify clients in the trial of seizure detection technology; can detect the onset of seizures. This will support the reduction in unnecessary long term 1:1 care and waking nights.

▶ Brain in hand (BiH) app identified to trial with clients to support decision making and increase confidence to self-manage activities of daily living. Also to manage extreme anxiety and sensory processing difficulties.

▶ Further exploration of new technologies to support higher functioning individuals as they transition from children's services to adults, which can often be long term and expensive. Promoting independence and reducing reliance on formal care.

▶ The next pilot studies will use more advanced technology using home sensors, health devices, and a smartwatch to provide companionship, health and activity insights, and peace of mind.

Covid 19

▶ Continued scoping with Kings in the newly established COVID assessment clinics to provide strategies for those with ongoing symptoms. There are an estimated 2 million across the UK, anticipate that the actual number is higher.

▶ Identification of 7 ORCHA rated apps for trial in the self management of long covid symptoms (e.g. brain fog, insomnia, depression and fatigue).

▶ Cross sector working with Kings / BHC's Physical Persistant Symptoms clinic to garner user feedback on selected and trialled products to inform sector on possible solutions to streamline the service in moving forward.

Long term goal: a transformation that uses data to predict risks and changing patterns in behaviour, to provide a proactive, preventative support network.

Where is Bromley now?

Between stage 1-2?
Aiming to get to stage 5!
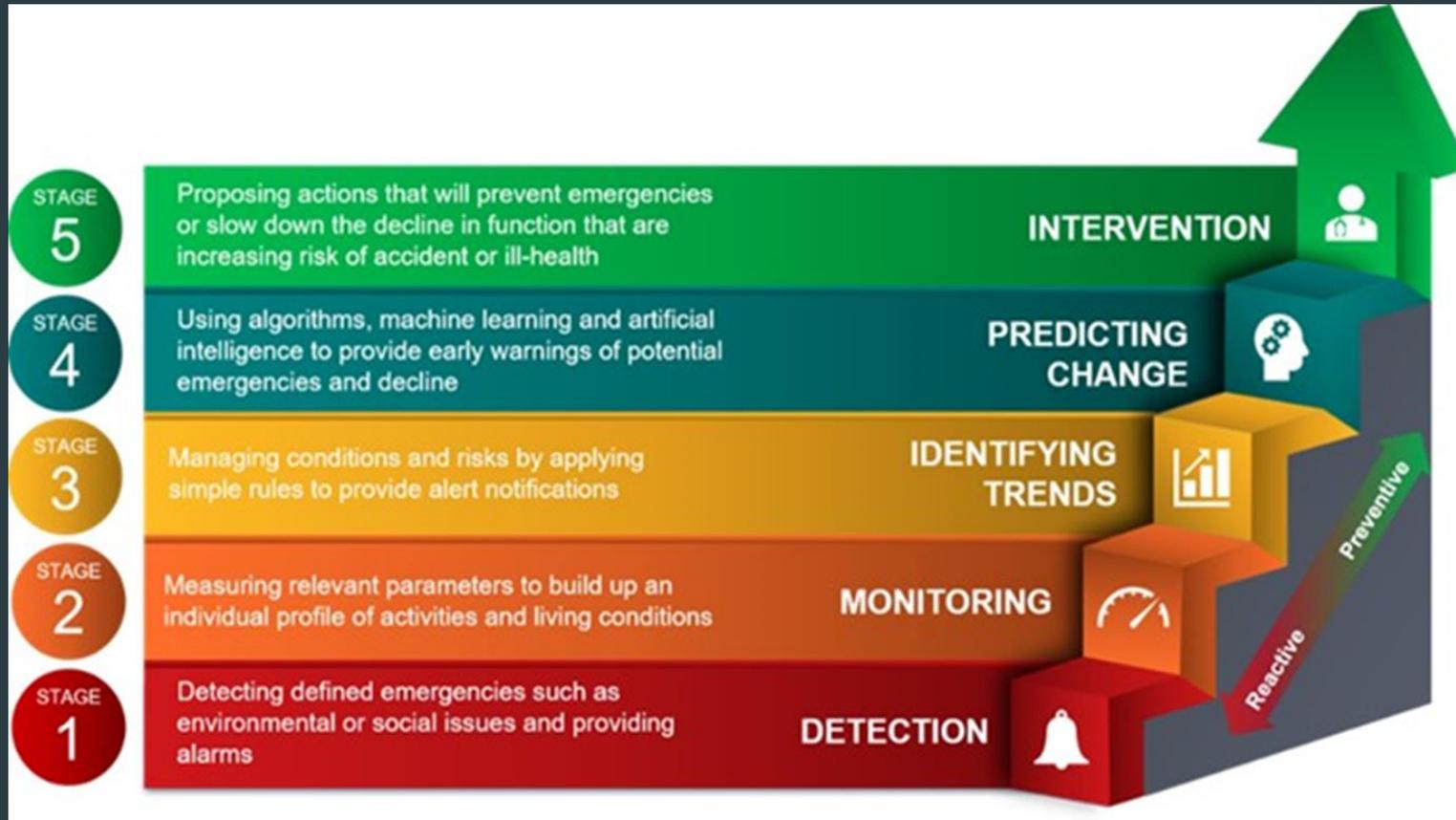
We need to be clear that technology cannot always replace support. Imbedding a change in culture from a reactive to a proactive service by adopting AT and implementing it at the forefront of assessment will empower health and social care workers to enhance an individual's wellbeing.

Any questions…