Implementing a Falls Management Policy in Residential Settings across Care Groups in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

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Falls are a significant health concern for adults with an intellectual disability of all ages

(Fox et al., 2010)

Falls are common amongst adults over 50 years of age

(TILDA, 2017)

Falls are the commonest cause of injury reported for people with learning disabilities

(Finlayson, 2016)

Work in other settings recommend that fall risk prediction tools are not to be used

(NICE 2013; RCPI 2015)

Residents living in residential care are 10 times more likely to sustain a significant injury as a result of a fall

(DoH, 2009)
Why Now...

Reduce Falls / harm from falls

- Consistency
- Data
- Governance and risk
- Manage Care needs
- Modifiable risk factors
- Frailty
- Evidence
Next steps...

- Working Group / Project group Disability Services
- Policy / Processes
- Risk assessment tools
- Emerging evidence
- Programmatic approach to implementation
Critical Elements...

Multidisciplinary Involvement
- Therapists
- Holistic

Multifactorial Risk Assessment
- Modified Australian Quickscreen
- Training and Support

Policy Development
- Post Falls Management Pathway
- Integrated with Care Planning
# Key Successes...

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<th>Progress to date in Disability Services</th>
<th>Implemented multifactorial risk assessment and policy in HSE disability services</th>
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<td>Positive feedback from staff at support session held 3-months post-implementation</td>
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<td>Shared policy with National Disability Specialist, Quality Improvement Division for use in other community services and Section 38 organisations</td>
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<td>Paved the way for introduction to other care groups</td>
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Learning...

- Clear purpose
- Leadership / Governance
- Scalable / transferable
- Level of Development
- Listen
- Training
- Inclusive
Approach taken in Older Persons Residential Services

**Standardisation of approach**

**Governance**
- Need for updated single policy across Cork Kerry Older persons residential services

**Working Group**
- Convened multidisciplinary working group with representation from older persons

**Pilot**
- Test new risk assessment tool
- PDSA cycle
Feedback...

- Training and education is so important
- Integration with existing documentation
- Comprehensive assessment
- Time to get used to the new risk assessment form
Reflection...

• The critical enablers are key

• Strong governance and leadership is essential

• Not underestimating the ‘change’ factor
Future plans...

• Implement processes in Mental Health Service

• Conduct a gap analysis for resources required

• Formal Evaluation – risk assessment tool
References

Thank You

Any Questions?