

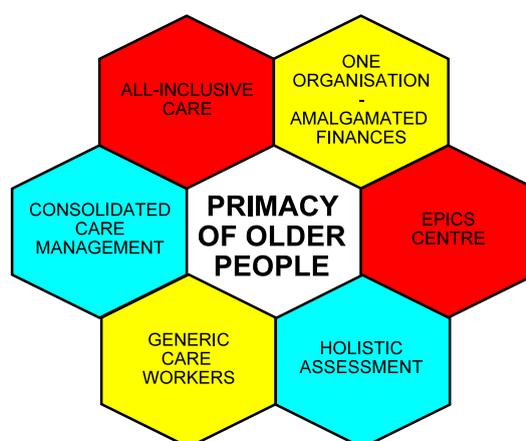
A consultAGE briefing

The Elderly People's Integrated Care System (EPICS) was initiated by:

THE HELEN HAMLYN FOUNDATION

in partnership with statutory authorities in Kensington and Chelsea, Derbyshire and Shropshire.

The EPICS Honeycomb illustrating the key elements of EPICS



Three demonstration projects were established, and others have been established by other people using the EPICS framework

The programme was established by RICHARD HOLLINGBERY Who was the Director of The Helen Hamlyn Foundation from 1987 to 1995 during the formulation and development of EPICS. He was responsible for the programme during Phase One of EPICS.

Richard is able to continue to promote EPICS through conference presentations, training sessions or workshops or individual advice. Just contact me. (richard@consultage.co.uk)

The main features of each EPICS demonstration

NORTH KENSINGTON - THE WESTWAY CENTRE

- resource centre with day care, clinics and restaurant
- user involvement in management of the centre
- multi-disciplinary staff team including nurse, social worker, therapists, consultants, care workers
- activities include: health promotion and health checks, reflexology, massage and beauty therapy
- home care service integrated with day care - the same staff provide both services
- the centre is used as a training site for multi-skilled workers
- becoming involved in a project to develop joint records.

DERBY

EPICS centres based in residential care homes providing integrated care to older people in their locality which includes:

- day care, respite and short-term care with enhanced nursing beds in the home
- multi-function treatment rooms and community facilities
- a core team of staff from all the agencies including mental health teams and pharmacists, it meets weekly with all referrals from the catchment area channelled through the team
- telephone care link line and check calls

The initial centre at Arthur Neal House has been replicated at Warwick House, Arboretum, Perth House and the Monsal Centre in Repton. Others are planned throughout Derbyshire.

SHROPSHIRE

A holistic approach across the county including:

- a shared assessment used by social services and health staff
- joint commissioning county-wide and at a local level
- demonstration projects with two GP practices to improve co-ordination between primary care staff and social workers
- preventative work and screening through weekly sessions with a range of staff; nurse, GP, health visitor, social worker
- focus on those with highest levels of need with joint assessment and a key worker system
- The Meres Day Centre in Ellesmere.

MARLOW EPICS

Re-engineering the provision of health and social care for older people through collaborative working. New Ways with Old Services"

- includes a GP practice (total fundholding) located beside a Community Hospital, Health Clinic, Day Hospital and an adjacent Age Concern Day Centre
- immediate home assessment by co-ordinator or district nurse
- EPICS care workers home support team
- in the first two years, 402 people were helped (11.5% of people over 65 registered with the GP practice), of whom: 60% received a rapid response to provide immediate support and 40% received preventative, holistic care
- a clinical audit of 'over 65 admissions' to hospitals over a 5 month period suggested that 564 bed-days could have been saved by a referral to EPICS.

This project was highlighted in the Royal Commission on Long Term Care report "With respect to Old Age" [1999] as an example of good practice.

It has been written up in a major publication:

Integrating Care for older people : New Care for Old—a systems approach

Christopher Foote & Christine Stanners

Published by Jessica Kingsley Publishers ISBN 1-84310-010-X

Unfortunately, EPICS has been disbanded (2004) and incorporated into the intermediate care service in the area with a subsequent loss of service.

THE GLEBE FIELD PROJECT, CRICH, DERBYSHIRE

A new Day Care and Community Centre on the Glebe Field adjacent to the old vicarage was opened in September 1997. It was initiated by the local GP and draws on the EPICS framework and received support from Derby EPICS. The project provides day care, therapy and nursing services, meals, information and telephone link. It will be a focal point for village activities and groups (all ages). The old vicarage will provide respite care and new high support sheltered housing is close by.

CENTRE FOR POLICY ON AGEING

The collection of the main publications relating to EPICS, together with details of the projects listed here, are available in the Library at the Centre for Policy on Ageing. For access to these records, just make an appointment with the Library.

Links on website www.consultage.co.uk