**What works to help Older People stay happy and well at home for longer?**

**IMPACT Facilitator Project 2023/24 (Northern Ireland)**

University of Ulster / Southern HSC Trust Adult Community Services

Orla Fitzsimons, November 2024

# **Project Findings/Vision Statement**

We believe that what works to help older people stay happy and well at home for longer is;

* **The promotion, fair funding and development of consistent and equitable opportunities for social connection, networks and partnerships,** that support older people, their family carers, staff and volunteers in older people’s and carers services,
* **The promotion, fair funding and development of consistent access to information about local services, within and across local councils, health and social care trusts, GP practices and local community and voluntary services,**
* **The promotion, fair funding and development of consistent community transport services** across the area,

We believe this will work to;

* promote and sustain older people’s independence and autonomy at home, as well as support older people’s, family carer’s, staff and volunteers, physical and emotional wellbeing, and;
* will improve older people’s earlier and easier access to health, social care and other services and supports in their local communities.

We believe that this can be achieved by;

* **the promotion, fair funding and development of collaborative, evidence based, coproduction approaches to good communication,** within and across individual teams, older people’s services, organisations and agencies in both statutory and community and voluntary sectors serving the area
* **the promotion, fair funding and collaborative development** of pro active, effective and meaningful approaches, **to engaging as early as possible, with older people and their family carers, staff and volunteers,** in order **to identify and assess needs,** and **coproduce person and family centred plans for older people’s care at home,** now and in the future;
* **the promotion, fair funding and collaborative development of proactive engagement and planning systems, management and infrastructure** across agencies for older people’s services,

Factors we believe can help us achieve this are;

* listening to and recognising the strengths, expertise and assets of older people, family carers, local services existing networks, partnerships and relationships and the staff and volunteers working within them, at the earliest possible stage and continuing long term engagement
* listening to the evidence of what works to help older people stay happy and well at home for longer, working collaboratively across teams and agencies to fund, implement and scale up approaches that have been proven to work
* listening more effectively to each other within and across agencies and teams, building the capacity of everyone to share information about what works, collaborate on promoting, funding and developing approaches to implementing what works in more areas, and with more older people