Kit4care - Process and Impact Evaluation

The Kit4Care programme is being supported by a process and impact evaluation by Care City Innovation CIC.

Due to the organisational, geographic, and economic complexities of the delivery of this programme, a Realist Methodology will underpin the evaluation. This is an underlying assumption that the same intervention will not work everywhere and for everyone. The focus of a Realist Evaluation is the question of 'What works, for whom, in what respects, to what extent, in what contexts, and how?'.

Realist evaluations ask:
1. For whom will this basic programme theory work and not work, and why?
2. In what contexts will this programme theory work and not work, and why?
3. What are the main mechanisms by which we expect this programme theory to work?
4. If this programme theory works, what outcomes will we see?

The hypotheses that realist evaluations test are called 'context-mechanism-outcome' (CMO) statements. These hypotheses are about which mechanisms are likely to operate in different contexts and the outcomes that will be observed when they do I.e.
'In this context this mechanism will fire which will lead to this outcome'. An example of a CMO statement from another project is - "The mental health needs of patients add to management challenges and interfere with patient self-care. Some mental health patients with poor communication (context) receive less intensive mental health treatment (outcome) because providers sometimes ignored or normalized their symptoms (mechanism)."

Care City has worked with the Kit4Care steering group to develop four CMO statements which will guide this evaluation:

Statement 1: Where there is trust and communication between organisations (and an understanding of a common goal and mutual benefit of programme) there will be collaborative working which will lead to successful project set up and delivery of quantitative outcomes.

Statement 2: Where staff demonstrate a willingness and capacity to learn new technology skills and are supported by their organisation the training will be successful, building their confidence and inspiring them. Through the delivery of successful training remote monitoring will take place with their clients and outputs achieved.

Statement 3: Where residents have a good relationship with staff (and have had potential benefits clearly communicated) they will engage with the programme, receive remote monitoring and experience the benefits and value of this.

Statement 4: Where the central programme team is trusted (and financial issues are resolved/clear) there can be decentralisation of power to local delivery which delivers against local needs