

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service and Halton CCG – Screening for Atrial Fibrillation

- Halton has a population of approximately 20,500 people over 65 years. Around 500 people in Halton have undiagnosed AF.
- Halton CCG considered Cheshire FRS Safe and Well visits as an opportunity to identify people with undiagnosed AF.
- Halton CCG received funding from the Innovation Agency – Academic Health Science Network for the North West Coast to purchase supplies of the MyDiagnostick, a Mobile ECG screening tool.
- Halton CCG trained CFRS staff including information on the causes of AF and the use of the mobile ECG device. CFRS conduct a simple ECG test to assess whether the householder has an irregular heartbeat.

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- For those who test positive on the ECG device, the householder is given a leaflet to explain they have been screened for AF by a trained firefighter, provides basic information on AF, and advises them to make an urgent GP appointment.

Outcomes

- CFRS has conducted **1356** AF screenings, resulting in **34** persons signposted to make a GP appointment (February 1st 2017- 26 January 2018. Halton CCG has confirmed these people are now presenting to primary care and are now receiving treatment to reduce the risk of a future medical episode. On average, CFRS conduct around 85 Safe and Well visits per week, delivered by operational firefighters.
- Views are that this model is replicable: from 15 January 2018, rolling out initiative across West Cheshire CCG, South Cheshire CCG and Vale Royal CCG areas. 15 people have triggered the diagnostic and signposted to primary care. EMIS code being deployed to track people presenting to primary care.



ATRIAL FIBRILLATION SCREENING

Date _____

You were screened today for Atrial Fibrillation by a trained member of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service staff. This screening does **NOT** form a diagnosis but gives an indication of a potential issue.

Following today's reading, our advice to you is to contact your GP Practice and request an appointment to discuss this further.

Please take this letter with you to your GP Practice.

