Henry Smith Charity has provided MHL with a 5 year strategic grant (2014-19) to deliver activity that promotes 1) good practice in care homes and 2) community engagement in care homes for older people. This paper describes a two and a half year project that is being delivered in collaboration with National Association of Providers of Activities (NAPA) which will support community engagement.

2. Aims

The overall aim of the project is to promote community engagement with care homes in order that older people can enjoy the best possible quality of life according to their own needs, interests and preferences and continue to make their own contribution to the lives of our communities, if they so wish. More specifically, the project will:

capture and share the learning about what works well in supporting community engagement with care homes

Refine and test the value of a model of community engagement currently described as ‘MHL Fans’.

Develop tools and resources that are considered helpful in supporting community engagement

Encourage community engagement to happen more often in more care homes across the UK through building connections with both national and local organisations to support the spread of best practice