The Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Safety Forum would like to take this opportunity to tell you about the first regional quality and safety improvement project outside a hospital setting in Northern Ireland.

This project, involves the Safety Forum (a unit within the Public Health Agency) working with and supporting a number of Nursing Homes as they take part in work to prevent falls and improve links with others across health and social care settings.

There are 8 Nursing Homes across Northern Ireland who are participating in this project. This project, usually referred to as a collaborative, is short-term learning system that brings together a number of multidisciplinary teams to seek improvement in a particular topic area, in this case, prevention of falls.

Anyone can fall at any time, but the risk of falling does increase as people get older. This can cause injury, loss of confidence and independence.

By working in partnership with residents and families, staff in the nursing homes will seek to minimise the risk of residents falling.

Nursing Homes will have opportunities to share their work, learn about good practices in other facilities and bring this learning back to their own Homes to further improve the work to prevent falls.