

Smart Homes and Buildings Association (SH&BA)

The focus of assisted living (AL) is the use of technology to deliver health and social care to the home. The objective is to help people who become ill to stay at home to live independently rather than be admitted to hospital and if they are admitted support them when they were discharged. There is a growing realisation that housing can have a big impact on health. Good housing – that is homes that are adapted to the needs of the residents and where care services can be accessed and delivered remotely – is key if the objective of promoting independent living is to be realised. SH&BA has developed the concept of the “Caring Home” to describe a house that can be easily adapted and provides ready access to services. Further, the Caring Home not only supports those that are ill or recovering from an illness but can also provide preventative services that promote wellness.. Recently, Simon Stephens in his 5 Year Forward View of the NHS has noted that the NHS must deliver more services outside hospital so the Caring Home has risen up the agenda. Now there is a need to identify what would make the wide-scale provision of Caring Homes a reality in the UK and demonstrate the products and services that are needed in a Caring Home.

SH&BA is pleased to be part of project CHIRON which has just that focus. The use of robotics has the potential to assist people in undertaking activities of daily living (ADLs) thus making the home a safer place and a place where care can be delivered. This is a multidisciplinary problem and SH&BA is keen to work with this talented team of technologists and care providers to undertake this work.