

What is this toolkit?

The Wessex CGA toolkit contains a suite of accessible co-produced resources to support the delivery of comprehensive geriatric assessment. The toolkit has been developed to prompt conversations, encourage learning and to set out a Wessex recommended approach to delivering person centred care in any setting.

Who is this toolkit for?

This guidance is intended for use by clinical colleagues within the MDT.

It can be used in:

- geriatric and non-geriatric settings
- primary care, secondary care and within the community setting

How will this toolkit help you?

It will help you and your team to develop a best practice approach for delivering a comprehensive geriatric assessment (CGA) for individuals, putting them, their families and carers at the heart of care provision.

The toolkit has easy to use interactive documents, linking to best practice examples, case studies, checklists and recommendations for individuals and organisations to review, consider and adopt.

Why did we do this project?

The [2018 Wessex Acute Frailty \(1\)](#) audit provided excellent insight into completion of Comprehensive Geriatric Assessments (2) across Wessex. The findings of the 2018 audit were revisited in December 2020 by Wessex AHSN Acute Expert Group to understand the appetite to look at a Wessex focused CGA project and determined developing Wessex wide recommendations would provide value.

Our approach

During 2021, the Wessex AHSN Healthy Ageing Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGA) toolkit was developed alongside 6 clinicians within Wessex, building on the [British Geriatric Society](#) CGA guidance, insight distilled from a Wessex-wide CGA audit and themes identified in [2018 Wessex Acute Frailty Audit](#)

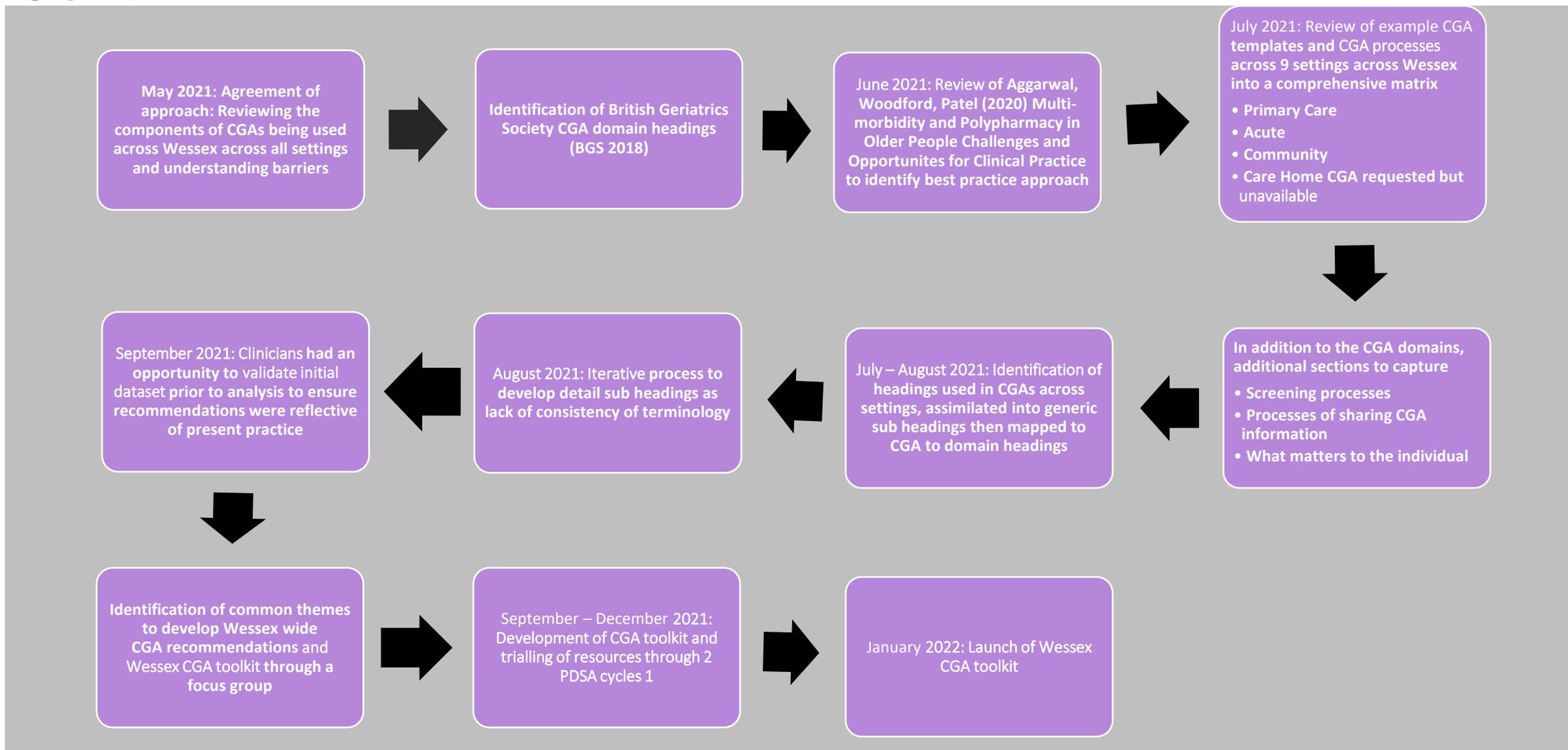
Figure 1 describes the project journey and **Figure 2** summaries the findings from the audit.

For further information on the project please visit: [Wessex AHSN Healthy Ageing](#)

Please share your case studies in implementing the recommendations within your setting/organisation by emailing healthyageing@Wessexahsn.net



Figure 1: The development of Wessex wide CGA toolkit: A methodology

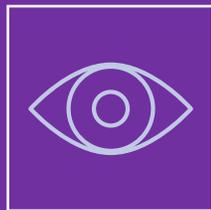


* Caveats: Small sample of CGAs, not wholly representative, but a snapshot of practice as of May 2021
Additional detail will be picked up in 2021 Wessex Acute Frailty Audit
Some organisations have more than one CGA example in use
Recommendations are a subjective view of the task and finish groups’ findings

Figure 2: 2021 Wessex wide CGA audit findings

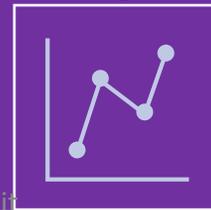
Observations

- Some commonality of “data” between acute, primary and community CGAs but not routinely electronically shared within and outside of organisations
- Mixture of paper and electronic documentation in same organisation, which vary in content
- CGAs had a medical admission focus
- Record of discussing CGA with patient/family/carer not collected
- Documented discussion with MDT not routinely contained within CGA
- Spiritual domain not covered in any reviewed CGA
- Links to other plans e.g. Anticipatory, Advance, Personalised Care and End Of Life variable (not electronic)
- Areas of good practice and sharing of information, but not joined up electronically
- Information completed in isolation, some signposting to ACPs and Personalised Care planning



Key findings from CGA audit

- 9 CGAs from across Wessex reviewed
 - Each CGA was different in look, content and style
1. **88.89 %** included a clinical frailty score
 2. **5** CGAs included "What Matters to Me" section
 3. **2** CGAs linked to patients' Anticipatory care plans
 4. 5 linked to DNACPR
 5. Variability in cognition status captured in CGAs
 6. Limited signposting to spiritual support evident
 7. Functional domain well populated but signposting to preventative resources/support variable e.g. hydration and nutrition resources
 8. Capturing of family support provided variable
 9. Process for initiating, contributing and sharing a CGA with health, care and voluntary sector inconsistent across localities and settings



Wessex CGA toolkit

Development of resources

- Review of findings to develop a Wessex wide CGA recommendation toolkit including:
 - Criteria for commencing a CGA
 - Seven guiding CGA principles
 - The power of a CGA Case Studies
 - Best practice CGA resources to support improved completion of CGA across Wessex
- Launch across Wessex to frailty specific and non-frailty specific localities

