

The possible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics is a relationship development for the delivery of social care. Evidence suggests there are currently a limited number of robots being used or in development in social care but this development is growing, with many seeing it as a key part of how the sector will adapt to increasing needs in the future.

Robotics and AI can be broadly categorised in one of the following groups.

Physical assistance robots (PAR)

These perform discreet tasks including lifting and carrying to support people who need care and support.

Some PARs have been designed to operate independently from the care workforce and others

Social assistance robots

These robots have the ability to help people through individual non-contact assistance in convalescence, rehabilitation, training and education.

Service robots support activities of daily living. Companion robots are more generally associated with improving the psychological status and overall wellbeing of its users.



Cognitive assistance robots (CARs)

These can support users in performing cognitive tasks with the potential to support people with dementia, Alzheimer's disease and other cognitive impairments.

They can use chatbots* as part of their customer interface.

They have the potential to aid carers and people who use care services to monitor and self-manage their care.

They identify at an early stage behaviours or symptoms that may require professional intervention and support.

These robots can be used to support people with cognitive impairments by providing reminders, monitoring their behaviour and providing support when needed. They can also be used to provide information and support to carers and people who use care services. They can be used to monitor and self-manage their care, and to identify at an early stage behaviours or symptoms that may require professional intervention and support.

*A chatbot is a computer programme with conducts a conversation via audio or text. They are used to simulate how a human would behave in a conversation.

This work is part of a project to look at how digital technology can support social care delivery.

You can read more about this project and see Skills for Care's evidence review of the use of robotics and AI across the sector at: [.skillsforcare.org.uk/digital](https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/digital).

