Raising the standard in dementia care homes
Can moving into a care home be a positive choice?
Families should be confident that a move into a dementia care home gives the person with dementia a better quality of life than if they remain at home.

Care Home staff with specialist skills and knowledge should be supporting people to live well with dementia in a specialist environment.

Care Homes should be proud of their specialist dementia care service which they can evidence to those who are choosing it.
Can moving into a care home be a positive choice for a person who is living with dementia and their family?

When there are so many stories being told about poor care, no wonder that there is a stigma attached to going to live in a care home. When relatives see this as a last resort and speak of their feelings of guilt in “putting Mum or Dad into a Home” we can clearly see that there is work to be done to raise the standard for dementia care homes – improving the experience for those receiving care and the reputation of care providers.

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Dementia Champions has been established by Jackie Pool Associates to help those:

- **choosing** a care home to raise the standard in dementia care.

Jackie Pool was inspired to develop this guide after difficulties in choosing a good care home with her mother.

Are you:

Providing dementia care?

or

Choosing a care home?
Detailed Checklist

The Building

The Staff

The Management

Evidence of truly specialist dementia care from knowledgeable and skilled staff in therapeutic care settings can be gained through the use of the Bee Inspired Dementia Care leadership programme, developed by Jackie Pool Associates.
The Building should be helpful and not bewildering with

- A range of activity equipment
- Accessible areas and objects
- Furniture to address physical and cognitive difficulties
- Landscaping to address physical and cognitive difficulties
- Features that reduce risk and promote safety
- Lighting to address visual and cognitive difficulties
- Signs to aid recognition
- Traditional and familiar objects to aid function
- Use of colour to address cognitive difficulties
A range of activity equipment

- Specialist therapy equipment for older people
- Daily newspapers and current magazines
- Lockable and low visibility storage for hazardous materials
- Individual activity programmes
- Age and therapeutically appropriate media to meet a range of ability levels
Use of colour to address cognitive difficulties

- Strong and distinctive colours to raise awareness of areas
- Blending colours to reduce awareness of unsafe areas
- Plain or low patterned floor covering in contrast colour to furniture
- Chairs and sofas with high visibility seats and arms
- Use of colour to influence mood throughout the home
The Staff should be knowledgeable, skilled and passionate about their care service with:

- Person-centred values showing in every activity
- Training in understanding dementia
- Training in supporting individuals with dementia
- A positive approach to the service that they offer to individuals with dementia
- An activity model of care
Person-centred values showing in every activity

- Sense of Team in the care setting
- Staff pride in their role
- Person-centred philosophy in practice:
  - life history work
  - lifestyle
  - physical health
  - function
  - relationships
Activity model of care

- Opportunity for activity, not tasks to be done – use of positive language
- Group and individual leisure activities
- Personal hobbies and interests
- Magic moments
- Always opportunity for engagement (people and objects)
The Management

• Inspection report
• NHS Choices information

• Policies and Procedures relating to the support of individuals with dementia

• Person-centred Mission Statement that is being applied

• Staffing level and skills mix

• Activity Co-ordinator
Established to help those:

Choosing a care home to raise the standard in dementia care homes by demanding the best.

Providing dementia care to raise the standard for specialist dementia care homes as a positive choice.