

# Bristol Dementia Wellbeing Service Care Home Liaison

Alongside our work in the wider community, Bristol Dementia Wellbeing Service also supports people living in Bristol's care homes. We believe in a culture of care that is person-centred. Through understanding this, we can support care homes and their staff to ensure every interaction with their residents, big or small, is carried out in a way which promotes the person to live well.

We think of care homes in the same way as people's own homes. Care homes should create feelings of safety and security, supporting its residents to live active lives and feel cared for by knowledgeable staff who can understand and respond to their unique needs. We aim to ensure care homes are homes for people for as long as they need, avoiding unnecessary moves or admissions to hospital.

Our Care Home Liaison service is a multidisciplinary team of dedicated care home practitioners. Each care home in Bristol has a named practitioner who works with the home as a whole, including its GPs. They make regular contact to talk through concerns and offer help and guidance before a problem develops.

One of the ways we can support homes is to reduce the use of antipsychotic and other psychotropic medications and ensure their appropriate use when other non-pharmacological interventions have been considered. We also support residents with mental health needs which reduces the demand for secondary mental health input.



Our practitioners work using a tiered model of 'whole home' support with a flexible toolkit of resources that we have developed to support assessment, formulation, intervention and education.

We support the development of our practitioners, recognising their professional and personal strengths and expertise whilst supporting their learning needs.

We also facilitate the sharing of best practice through our relationship with Alive! - a local charity which focuses on meaningful activity within care homes. Through this partnership we have developed *Active Life Champion* networks, running alongside the wider *Dementia Champion* networks.



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