



Dementia Care Policy

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Dementia Care Policy

1. Purpose and Scope

Elizabeth Finn Homes are not registered by the Care Quality Commission to provide a Dementia service.

Elizabeth Finn Homes does not formally admit residents with a primary diagnosis of Dementia to an EFHL home.

Elizabeth Finn Homes (EFHL) recognises that a significant number of its residents might have some form and degree of dementia, which might change or progress during the time that they reside in one of the EFHL homes.

Residents might develop the signs and symptoms of dementia after beginning to receive the service at an EFHL home.

Elizabeth Finn Homes strives to achieve the same high standards of care for all of its residents with dementia. It also recognises that dementia is an illness in its own right and that residents with dementia have specific needs requiring, in turn, specific strategies in response.

Elizabeth Finn Homes approach to its dementia care is consistent with the common values, principles and standards that apply to all residents and national standards for dementia care developed by expert bodies such as the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence and the Social Care Institute for Excellence. It recognises the importance of the Government's Dementia Care Strategy and is committed to its implementation.

2. Definitions

Dementia is a term used to describe a collection of symptoms including memory loss, problems with reasoning, perception and communication skills. It can also lead to a reduction in a person's ability to carry out routine activities such as washing, dressing and cooking. Dementia is caused by different brain diseases, most commonly Alzheimer's disease.

The number of people estimated to be living with dementia globally is 50 million, and it is thought this number will more than treble to 152 million by 2050. In the UK, it is estimated that around 850,000 people have dementia.

This progressive condition can have a devastating effect, not just on the person with dementia, but also on families, carers and wider society. There is no cure for dementia and it is the leading cause of death in England.

3. Aim of Policy

This policy is intended to set out the values, principles and strategies underpinning Elizabeth Finn Homes approach to residents who have some form of dementia.

4. Key Principles

Elizabeth Finn Homes follows the principles of person-centred care in assessing and addressing the needs of its residents with dementia.

It also attempts to see the resident with dementia as a whole person — not just someone who has a label of dementia attached to them.



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Elizabeth Finn Homes policies on equality and diversity apply to its residents with dementia as they do to all others. Residents are not to be excluded from any aspect of the service provision as defined in the Statement of Purpose because they have been assessed as having dementia in addition to other needs.

Elizabeth Finn Homes requires its staff to treat residents with dementia with respect at all times and to value their dignity.

Elizabeth Finn Homes works closely with Allied Health Professionals and relatives in assessing and addressing the needs of the resident with dementia.

It also recognises that residents with dementia have a right to express their wants and wishes and to take their own decisions according to their capacity to do so.

Elizabeth Finn Homes complies with the provisions of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 in respect of the decision-taking required by or on behalf of anyone with dementia. It seeks local safeguarding advice whenever it comes across residents who might be being deprived of their liberty because of being subject to restrictions to which they have not given their consent.

5. Assessment, Diagnosis and Reviews

Elizabeth Finn Homes works closely with local medical services including psychogeriatric services to ensure all residents are properly and appropriately diagnosed and assessed.

It ensures that the health of all residents who have a diagnosis of dementia is regularly monitored and reviewed.

It pays particular attention to ensuring that the medication prescribed to residents with dementia is monitored and regularly reviewed.

Elizabeth Finn Homes recognises that residents might have different forms of dementia and will be at different stages in the progression of the illness. It recognises that the effects of the illness will therefore vary from individual to individual and that a differential approach to each resident's needs should always be taken.

6. Care Strategies

Elizabeth Finn Homes recognises that no single strategy is sufficient and that most with dementia will need a combination of approaches that might involve the prescribing of appropriate medicines and drugs, focused social care and support and in some cases, specialised psychological interventions. All interventions need to be developed as a whole and in relation to one another.

Elizabeth Finn Homes aims to contribute to the range of interventions and programmes that commonly aim to maintain the capacities of residents with dementia and improves their sense of wellbeing and quality of life.

Elizabeth Finn Homes works to ensure that all residents with dementia are never socially excluded because of their dementia and are able to lead a full life of their own choosing.

Elizabeth Finn Homes supports the NHS England Well Pathway for Dementia and works with the local NHS partnerships across its geographical regions to implement through the communities within the homes.



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Preventing well

Advising residents that their risk of developing dementia can be reduced by looking after their health, communicating that 'what's good for the heart is good for the brain'.

Elizabeth Finn Homes ensures all residents have access to social engagement within the home and local communities and have full access to their local health partnership services.

Diagnosing well

Knowing where to direct residents for timely diagnosis, health and care services, and to personalised support and adaptations that will help them remain independent. If appropriate, checking if a resident is suffering from delirium or dementia.

Living well

Promoting health messages to support the physical, mental and oral health of residents living with dementia and supporting residents living with dementia to choose from a range of activities tailored to their preferences to promote wellbeing.

Supporting well

Involving the individual and relatives in all care and treatment planning, making it personal helping residents living with dementia and their relatives empowering them carers and knowing where to direct them to get support.

Making small adaptations such as using adequate signage and lighting to support a dementia-friendly environment.

Dying well

Offer the opportunity to complete advance care plans for residents with dementia while they have the capacity for these discussions, so that residents living with dementia are able to die with dignity in their place of choosing.

7. Staff Development and Training

Elizabeth Finn Homes ensures that all staff receive dedicated training in dementia care principles and methods.

Staff new to care work are expected to achieve the Care Certificate Standard 9: Awareness of Mental Health, Dementia and Learning Disability, which is also used as a minimum benchmark for all care staff working with people with dementia.

Staff receive more advanced training in line with their roles and responsibilities for residents who have dementia, such as when they take on the role of "Dementia Champion".



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8. References

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng16>

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng97>

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs184>

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/mentalhealth/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/2016/03/dementia-well-pathway.pdf>

9. Document history

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