



Design for dementia care

The Lodge: the Market Square

The focal point of The Lodge is the two storey Market Square.

Carer

Morning.

Becky Reynolds, Activities and Day Care Team Leader

I run the Breakfast Club which is open from half-nine till half-eleven. It gives all the staff the chance, you know, to bring different residents to the Breakfast Club for their breakfast, instead of having their breakfast on the communities. There's loads of different benefits from it because it's a good way of the residents socialising. Some of the residents like just coming up because it's a bit quieter, and they can have a cup of tea and read the newspaper in a corner. Some residents like coming up because they get to see other people that they don't usually see on a regular basis. And it also helps the staff as well, because if they bring a group of people up that may be up early, and maybe by nine o'clock are getting a little bit restless, by bringing them into a different environment they feel more settled, which then gives the staff more chance to crack on with getting the other residents up that are still on the community. The café not only gets used just for Breakfast Club, you can use it for I don't know if there's any parties that we celebrate, families use it if they want to do a celebration with their loved one, and they don't want to use it in the community, they'll have the café, you know, for the day. There's the bakery which is also, do you know like, classed as our family kitchen. So last Christmas a family member lived abroad and they came over and they missed Christmas, so in the New Year they came, and they brought the turkey and all the trimmings, and actually cooked the whole Christmas dinner in the bakery, and then all the family came and they had it in the café, so that was really nice. We've got the cinema which we use, obviously, for when we have our film matinees, but we also use it for our movement to music, where we put the chairs all round in a circle, and do that for movement to music. We have a hairdresser that comes in every Thursday, and the residents can book in to come and have their hair done. It doesn't have to be just that the hairdresser comes in. The staff can, rather than washing the resident's hair on the communities, might bring the resident up here and just have a bit of one-to-one time and wash and dry their hair up here.

Lorraine Haining, Head of Dementia Services, The Lodge

The Market Square is a fantastic feature but we're still learning as we go about how to best use it. I think we're starting to bring people in from outside to use the Market Square. We've now got a mother and toddler group that's running and that's helped us with inter-generational gap, and it's helped us reduce stigma, but I think there's a lot more we can do, so we're working with schools, we're working with the local Primary Care Trust in relation to bringing in carers so that we can do some education, so I think there's a lot more we can do with the Market Square. I think we've only just touched the tip of the iceberg about how to use that to its best advantage.