



Design for dementia care

The Lodge: public space

Lucy to residents

Do you want a drink or anything?

Resident

I'll have tea. (To wife) Do you want tea?

Lucy Ewbank, Care Assistant

Not the strong stuff.

Lorraine Haining, Head of Dementia Services, The Lodge

The first thing that's different about The Lodge is that people have an apartment, rather than just a bedroom. In a traditional care home you get one room; if you're lucky an en suite, but here you have a little apartment, it's a home from home, you have your lounge area, you have your bedroom area, you have a lovely en suite shower room, and you have a little kitchen area, so it is really a home from home, rather than just a bedroom.

Eileen, Resident

I'm very lucky here. I've got a big space, you know I've got a biggish bedroom, living room, toilet, everything, drawers galore, cooker, fridge, freezer. There's nothing I don't want.

And everything has been designed to be dementia-friendly.

Lorraine Haining, Head of Dementia Services, The Lodge

We've got glass-fronted cupboards in all the kitchens so that people can see what's in them. It helps people remember where things are and access things without getting frustrated. We've even got a glass-fronted fridge which is really helpful. It reminds people that they've got juice and things to eat, so it encourages people to keep their nutrition up, and particularly their fluid balance. Families will often leave juice and, you know, cartons of yogurt and things like that in for the residents, so again it's like home from home rather than having a communal share, or have to wait till somebody provides you with something. In the toilets we make sure that we've got like dark-coloured toilet seats so people can actually see the toilet, where it is, and they can manage to get sat on the toilet without any problems. We tend to find if you have a white toilet with a white floor, and a white toilet seat, people often don't see it. They often lose their ability for 3D vision and they can't distinguish where the toilet is in that environment. And also the grab rails and everything are contrasting colours to the tiles so that people can see them, so they're encouraged to use them then.

Lucy Ewbank, Care Assistant

The design helps independence in a way that they feel more like they can do things on their own, so they've got the toilet, they've got the shower, it's easy to turn on, it's easy to turn off. The shower chair is easy for them to put away. The towels are there so that they can get out of the shower and get the towels themselves and then, obviously, the door is yellow so they can see where to get out from.

Lorraine Haining, Head of Dementia Services, The Lodge

We've got features like, for instance we have claw-handled taps on the kitchen and in the bathroom. We had some discussion with infection control around that, who would have preferred us to have the traditional hospital-type taps where people don't have to touch them. However, we feel that people with dementia might not recognise that at some point in their journey, and we would rather have people washing their hands than not using them because they don't know how to. So we had that discussion with them around that and eventually they agreed that, you know, that that would be a feature we could put in, and that has worked

really well. We've never really had any issues around that. People are actively encouraged to bring in their own personal belongings to make it very much their own apartment because, obviously, they live there, it's their home, so we actively encourage that.

Relative to Resident

Do you remember wearing this?

Resident

Yes.

Relative

Would you fit into it now?

Resident

No.

Relative

Nor would I.

Lucy Ewbank, Care Assistant

It makes them feel more at home, so if they want their own chair or their own like pictures hung up on the wall, or their own TV, things from home that signify that they are home in a way, so they can just do what they want in their apartment. They can stay there as long as they like or they can come out if they want to.

Margaret, Relative

The apartments look out onto the main avenue of the new Buckshaw Village which is tree-lined, and Dad loves trees, so they see the change all the seasons. They can tell the time of day with the amount of traffic, see schoolchildren going past, so there's always something of interest out of the window.

Eileen, Resident

That's the big thing about this building. I never feel enclosed, you know, even downstairs, as you move around there's always plenty of space, and something going on, you know, it's lovely.