

Case study

When the Operations Manager from the Vale of Glamorgan Adult Social Services team reached out to the Association for Dementia Studies in 2018, we were delighted to support their plans for change.

They had made a successful bid to the Welsh Government to obtain funds to make environmental changes to two of their Local Authority care homes. Working with them, we visited the homes to create a profile using the [Environmental Assessment Tool for Care Homes](#) which became a platform for our training to staff the following day. A wide range of staff attended the training including senior managers, care home staff, facilities and estates, to ensure they were equipped to understand the rationale for change. Importantly, the visits to the care homes at the initial phase of consultancy provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to be involved. This included the Local Authority architect who would be responsible for creating and delivering the vision, care home staff who would be working in the new environment, and the residents who would be living there. Ownership of these ideas was key to ensuring the vision delivered what everyone aspired to.

Following completion of the environmental changes a grand launch was planned to celebrate. Director of Social Services, Lance Carver, said:

“The work undertaken at the homes is a fantastic example of how creating a dementia-friendly space can enable greater levels of independence and well-being for our residents.”

Some of the changes included re-decorating spaces with a calming, neutral palette of colours; colour-coded corridors with distinct coloured handrails; and specially commissioned photographs of the local area with colour co-ordinated frames to match their corridor space. The buildings’ contemporary look was complemented by new, modern and mobility-friendly flooring. The combination of improvements has encouraged residents to use the space more actively, *“as well as changing the whole feeling of the building.”*



Find out more about how you can create a dementia friendly space by contacting Teresa Atkinson t.atkinson@worc.ac.uk