



Hollybush House Specialist Care Home



Hollybush House Specialist Care Home is a modern and innovative care service that looks to implement high-quality care techniques that are of benefit to elderly people with care needs, including dementia and mobility issues, and for others needing rehabilitation. They often have residents that can't be supported and transferred to Bushey Fields for further care.

The overall aim of the home is to meet the individual needs of every resident. To achieve this, we use a person-centred approach to care in which each person has a named carer and is offered high levels of support on an individual basis. Activities are an important part of life at Hollybush House and our Activity Therapists and care staff organise a wide range of things to do both inside and outside the home.

Some of those activities are provided by 'RITA', she is not your normal carer, but a mobile Reminiscence Interactive Therapy and Activities touch screen technology.

To support adults with physical and mental disabilities to preserve and maintain their dignity, independence and individuality and enable them access to services that will enrich their quality of life.

Here is some of the latest feedback received from Hollybush House:

Q. How often do you use RITA?

A. The 'Big RITA' is always on! We utilise 'Big RITA' in the day room and always find plenty of content to engage and interact with the residents.

Q. What content do you use RITA for the most and for what purpose?

A. We honestly could not list everything in RITA as we find it all so beneficial.....the music, the movies, the games/quizzes etc. The sensory music in particular is a really popular choice amongst residents and staff alike. It has a 'calming' effect on everyone and really promotes a healthy mindset.

New Experiences

During lockdown we were trying to find different ways of keeping the residents occupied and decided to home-in on their love of animals. We discovered that many zoos in the UK, and abroad, were live streaming from their premises as a way to still allow people to interact with animals whilst their gates were shut to the public. We used RITA to connect to the internet and to locate the zoos who were live streaming. From elephant enclosures, to live Chimpanzee feeding and baby penguins, the residents were mesmerized. They couldn't believe that they were able have these live experiences from the zoos, from the comfort of their home.

By allowing the residents to engage with something that was meaningful and heartfelt to them, we were able to reduce boredom, agitation and un-necessary naps. We were able to replace that with promoting emotional well-being, group interaction and bringing joy to people's faces.

Continuous Improvements

We are getting everyone involved in a big project at the moment. We are using the Collage Passport in RITA to create collages for everyone in the home. The carers are collating information about each resident, which can then be transferred on to their individual collage. Whilst the end goal of this task is to have a personal passport for each resident which will contain their personal information, we are having fun along the way. Carers are finding out information that they never knew about their residents which prompts endless conversations about our residents' lives and interests. Family members are also able to join in this activity because they can provide information and pictures that can be added to the passports.

This type of task promotes mental stimulation to the residents because it keeps them occupied on topics dear to their heart. It also acts as a memory provoker and a conversation starter with the other residents in the home as they talk and exchange stories with each other.



