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**Care Home Grant Application Evaluation Guidance Sheet**

Applications need to evidence one or more of the following criteria;

* 1. Improvements to gardens / outdoor spaces / communal areas to afford Service Users and their Families improved opportunities to access outdoor spaces and use areas for improved social interaction and activities
  2. Improvements to communal areas within the care home to support greater social interaction
  3. Improvements to areas within the care home in order to make them more dementia friendly and to provide an environment which reduces Service User anxiety/distress
  4. The purchasing of technological solutions/equipment (for example applications will be encouraged for the purchase of remote monitoring equipment to support falls prevention, Interactive Tables, Robotic Pets and wider technology to support reminiscence therapy and contact with family).

Applications will need to show how improvements will benefit the service user, enhance quality of life. Providers are required to demonstrate at least ONE or more of the 5 elements of Wellbeing in Dementia:

1. **Connect:** When someone with dementia leaves their safe and familiar home environment to live in a care home it can be frightening, confusing and unfriendly. Help them to connect to their environment by making sure it is familiar, easy to navigate and fun to explore. For example, we can make sure that it is comfortable and homely with appropriate lighting and noise levels. We can facilitate self-expression through music and creative activities and use reminiscence to help them connect to their past.
2. **Learning:** Although memory loss and cognitive decline make it difficult for someone with dementia to learn new things, we can help someone rediscover old interests and skills, one step at a time, to maximise the chance of success. We can encourage people to explore different textures, tastes and visual experiences.
3. **Active:** Being active reduces stress, increases energy levels, improves balance and co-ordination, makes us more alert and helps us to sleep better. These benefits are more important than ever for people living with dementia, who may also have age-related conditions such as arthritis and vascular problems. We can support them to overcome the psychological barriers such as lack of confidence and fear of falling.
4. **Notice:** Improving awareness of the environment can help those with dementia to make choices, connect with reality and reorient to their surroundings. This in turn can reduce confusion, reduce stress and promote feelings of pleasure and contentment.
5. **Give:** Everyone likes to feel useful and valued. Giving something back increases feelings of belonging. Those with dementia whose cognitive and functional abilities are declining can feel less and less useful, leading to withdrawal, social isolation and lack of confidence. We can help them to feel valued and useful by encouraging participation in meaningful activities.

By encouraging and facilitating these five ways to wellbeing, we can provide opportunities for people living with dementia to use their strengths and live well with improved levels of functioning, enjoying positive relationships and a greater sense of wellbeing.

We are particularly seeking applications from not for profit or small / medium homes where there are only a max of 2 homes in the business portfolio and encourage any match funded project applications. Care homes that have previously received grants from this Programme are not excluded from submitting applications for 3rd round grants, although preference will be given to first time applications as a priority.

As an applicant for the Care Home Improvement Grant Programme, you also have the opportunity to complete a membership form for Dementia Friendly Sefton.  This is a local network of organisations working towards making Sefton a Dementia Friendly Community.  By joining the network, you need to commit to three simple and practical actions to improve the lives of people living with dementia in your service or community.  Examples are offering Dementia Friends Training, offering dementia friendly activities for residents, or making dementia friendly adaptations to your home environment. There is a short form to complete and return to:

Jan Campbell - email: [jan.campbell@seftoncvs.org.uk](mailto:jan.campbell@seftoncvs.org.uk)

Following acceptance of your membership, you will receive the Alzheimer’s Society digital Dementia Friendly logo, which you can use on your website and other publicity material.

**For Additional Consideration**

* + Any improvements towards infection control
  + Preference will be given to not for profit homes in 2nd round and we will prioritise SMEs and family businesses. We are particularly seeking applications from not for profit or small / medium homes where there are only a max of 2 homes in the business portfolio.

Digital Social Care Records Systems and Electronic Care Management Systems – Considerations

* Applications for the purchase of ECM *s*ystems are outside of this application process. Capital Care Home Improvement Grants can be used for the purchase of hardware to support ECM system implementation. These grants cannot be used for the purchase of software including licences and system programmes, maintenance/repairs and warranties. This is a statutory requirement for released capital funds. However, care homes may consider their *“readiness”* for future implementation and development of ECM systems.  Homes requesting monies for such installations will be expected to manage all running and maintenance, training and upgrade costs if the award request is successful.
* Grant applications will be considered from care homes that require up to date hardware associated with the implementation of ECM systems such as wifi boosters, laptops, computers, tablets, printers, screens and other hardware items.
* All future/planned ECM systems must be able to connect to LA and health systems (Interoperability).  Applicants will still need to outline in their applications both their plans for implementing an ECM system and how its use will support service delivery to residents. We expect providers wishing to purchase a ECM system, to review the Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for ECM suppliers.

Assured Supplier List - Digital Social Care:

<https://www.digitalsocialcare.co.uk/social-care-technology/digital-social-care-records-dynamic-purchasing-system/accredited-supplier-list/>

\*Digital Social Care Records Funding

There will be opportunity for all care providers in shared settings to apply for Digital Transformation Funding to purchase Digital Social Car Records systems over the next 3 years and further information will be given in due course.



**Key Questions:**

1. Can you outline how you have identified the need for the improvement and what published research / guidance / regulatory requirements supports it.
2. How have you involved Service Users / Families / Advocates in the formulation of your proposal and how will you continue to involve them in both the implementation of the proposal and the evaluation of its effectiveness?
3. What outcomes does your proposal seek to achieve, both with respect to;

* Enhancing the experience of both a cohort of Service Users and individual Service Users
* Meeting the needs of future Service Users in the care home
* In keeping with the Care Act 2014, increasing health and wellbeing

1. How will you effectively assess the benefits of your proposal and report your findings to the Council, CQC, Service Users / Families / Advocates and other bodies such as Sefton Healthwatch.

**Please note there will be an expectation to report back in 3,6 and 12 month intervals, after the completion of work**

1. How will your proposal assist you with meeting CQC requirements, particularly with respect to enhancing quality of life and promoting choice and control by providing person-centred and safe/effective services?