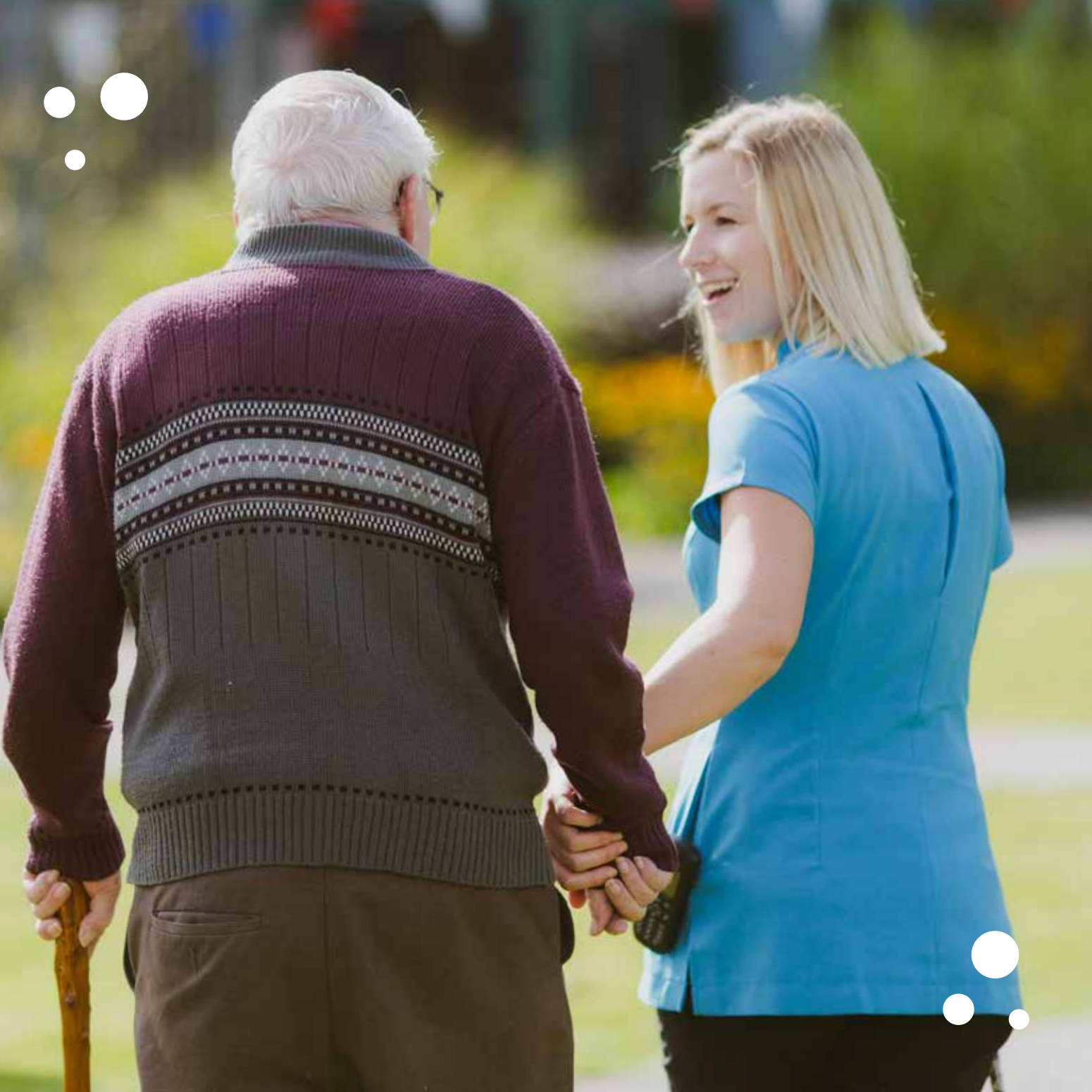




HONEY LANE
CARE HOME



A guide to choosing the right
DEMENTIA CARE HOME





CHOOSING THE RIGHT DEMENTIA CARE HOME

Choosing a care home is an important decision with lots of factors to consider from the level of care your loved one needs to whether it's a place they'll feel happy to call home.

We understand how overwhelming it can be - particularly during a pandemic - when trying to find a home that supports residents living with dementia so they can lead contented and meaningful lives. When you begin your research, we advise you ask people you know for recommendations, then visit the care home's websites and Facebook pages, as they can often give a real insight into life at the home. Does it provide a calm and secure environment with trained staff? Does it use dementia aids to enhance every day quality of life?

With this in mind, we feel it's important to consider the location of the care home, is it in a tranquil setting? What does the home do to make residents feel they are in familiar surroundings? If in person visits aren't possible due to COVID-19, see if they offer remote tours via a video call - this way you can experience how each home makes you feel.

Following your research, be sure to chat to the Care Home Manager, as they will be able to provide you with vital information from the level of care they provide to what the COVID-19 policy is around infection control and access to visits.





*To help you, we've listed
10 important questions you might
not think to ask but will help you come
to a decision and find the right
home for your loved one.*



QUESTION 1

Is the location of the care home easily accessible for you?

You may want to weigh up finding the right care home for you against the travel time it takes to get there. You may feel that a few extra miles are worthwhile if it's a home you are happy with.



QUESTION 2

How does the home cater specifically to people living with dementia?

As well as wanting a care home that feels like a 'home-from-home' you will want to make sure the team has specific training in enhancing the lives of people living with dementia. For example, find out what they can do to make your loved one's living space as familiar and personal as possible, and how they make mealtimes a positive experience.



QUESTION 3

How do they support residents living with dementia to lead meaningful lives?

Activities are paramount to residents mental, physical and emotional well-being, so you want to be sure the home's daily activities are also tailored to residents' needs. So finding out if they offer activities that your loved one enjoys and has a passion for is essential. For example, a regular programme of sensory-based activities and therapies, as well as established links with the local community.



QUESTION 4

Is there an outdoor space that residents can enjoy and nice views from their windows?

The addition of an outdoor space enhances the quality of life for residents, particularly when designed with dementia needs in mind, such as a sensory garden. A calm and tranquil view from the home's bedrooms will also make a huge difference for residents who are nursed in bed and is something all residents can enjoy during bad weather and winter months.



QUESTION 5

What is the ratio of team members to residents?

You're going to want to ensure the care and attention that your loved ones receives meets their needs and is tailored to their specific requirements. This question is key in assessing whether team members have quality time to spend with residents.



QUESTION 6

What qualifications do your team have and how are they trained?

This is a great question to ask in helping you decide if the care home will meet the physical, emotional and medical needs of your loved one. You want to feel comfortable and happy that the primary caregivers match your requirements, now and in the future, as their dementia changes and evolves.



QUESTION 7

What is the turnover of the team?

Good care teams build up a rapport with the residents and really get to know them. Longevity of team members is a sign that they are happy in their place of work but also means that there will be consistency in the day-to-day interactions with your loved one.



QUESTION 8

Can residents choose their daily routine?

Every resident will have different needs and preferences and so having choices in how they live shows how the home caters for individuals. This is even more important for those living with dementia. You need to determine if the home offers the stability of routine yet the flexibility to be responsive to the residents' needs, for example, making it possible to eat where they feel most comfortable.



QUESTION 9

Are there any visitor restrictions?

This is a particularly important question, especially at the moment during the COVID-19 pandemic, you want to know what the visitor policy is and what that means for you.



QUESTION 10

How often do other health teams, such as opticians and dentists and chiropractors, visit residents?

While the more urgent health needs of a resident living with dementia tend to take priority when choosing a home, it's essential you know that their social and emotional needs will continue to be met in their new community by their primary caregivers.



CONTACT US

We appreciate the care sector can be tricky to navigate at times and we are committed to supporting you as much as possible through, what can often be a difficult and emotional time.

Our dedicated team are always happy to answer any questions you may have. You can contact us by:



Calling us on:

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