

# Home Service Development Day – St Johns Hospital and Almhouse

The Home service 3 year programme will collaborate with other major arts organisations and residential care providers. The project will explore how high quality creative arts can engage, invigorate and give a voice to older people in residential settings.

## Background

Arts for Health Cornwall (AfHC) established in 2004, and are one of the UK's leading arts and health organisations who employ experienced creative practitioners who share their art-forms with people to improve their health and well-being through creativity.

Although a small organization, AfHC have won several local and national awards which reflect their work done with older people in care, dementia sufferers and homeless people. One of the key aims of the organization to learn more and help others to be happier and healthier through creativity.

## What we wanted to achieve

The Home Service programme aims to:

- Develop best practice through experiment and reflection
- Capture learning through documentation
- Share learning through conferences, toolkits, online presence and training events
- Develop sustainable partnerships between care homes and arts organisations
- Create a pool of skilled arts practitioners and care staff arts champions
- Secure resources to sustain the work.

“What a brilliant day, loads of fuel for thought. We have booked a taster session with Alive. The staff also came away ready to ‘go for it.’ Brilliant, Thank you”

Raine,  
Manager Manor Farm Care Home

## What we did

The development day was the first time local partners were brought together to meet, bond and gain an understanding of the overall project. The day comprised of artist taster sessions in dance and movement, song and reminiscence and creative writing.

The group critiqued art, made pottery and had butterflies land on their arms all through using touch technology and i-pads. Artists talked through their processes, methodology and concepts and the day finished off with some round tables discussions on the documentation, stretch and ambition and legacy of the project.

## What we achieved

Participants left with:

- an increased knowledge and understanding of the benefits of arts and cultural activity for older people in care homes
- an increased knowledge of dementia and other common conditions affecting older people
- an improved understanding of how to tailor creative practice to better meet the needs of older people and staff in care homes

## What we learnt

As a result of the workshops participants were keen to have further training on how to incorporate touch pad technology in to activity sessions. Plans for a further training day in the new year on this are in action.

Strong elements which have come from the day include the ambition to connect with local more, involve Duke of Edinburgh students and the local youth centre and Crafts Hall, and evolve the project with a key intergenerational aspect. In other cases the recruitment, involvement, and retention of nurses seems to be an issue that they would like to address through the project.



“ Just feeling quite excited about the project and feeling that it’s been so wonderful to meet everybody involved. There are all these lights going off ”

Participant

## For more information please contact

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## Skills for Care Recommends

In partnership with local communities, employers and commissioners; we have been exploring the skills that exist in the community and how these can and do complement the provision of services to people in need of care and support.

### Skills around the person

Person centred planning identifies the requirements of the individual to services. 'Skills around the person' puts the individual in charge of identifying their needs, focusing on the skills they have and those which need development.

[www.skillsforcare.org.uk /  
communityskills](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/communityskills)

### Developing community skills

To undertake community skills development it is worth considering how the skills, knowledge and expertise of local people can facilitate effective engagement.

[www.skillsforcare.org.uk/  
communityskills](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/communityskills)

### Community skills: A guide for Commissioners

Skills for Care have developed a guide for social care commissioners to help them understand more about the role of informal community support and how it can be used in the commissioning process.

[www.skillsforcare.org.uk/  
communityskills](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/communityskills)

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