

Using iPads in care homes

Scoping and evaluating the use of iPads for people with dementia living in care homes.

Background:

Anchor, England's largest not for profit provider of housing and care for older people, embarked on an innovative project to systematically introduce iPads into all of its care homes.

A training package was provided to the Activity Co-ordinators who led on the work.

The Association for Dementia Studies was commissioned to

conduct an independent evaluation of the Anchor iPad project. The aims were to:

- Identify the experiences of iPad use in Anchor care homes for residents, their families and staff
- Understand how iPads can be used to enhance quality of life for people with dementia.

Findings:

The systematic use of iPads in care homes can complement and enhance existing activities for people living with dementia.

It can also support the introduction of new activities based on the growing range of apps that are available.



The range of positive outcomes for residents with dementia included increased interaction, greater inclusion and improved communication with relatives.

A range of benefits were seen for the care home including the delivery of enhanced activities, the provision of a more person-centred approach, and increased staff skills and confidence

Evans, S.B., Bray, J. and Evans S.C. (2017) The iPad project: Introducing iPads into care homes in the UK to support digital inclusion. *Gerontechnology*, 16(2) 91-100.

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