

Good hearing health in care homes



Between
70-90%
of care home
residents over
the age of
65 years are
affected by
hearing loss.

The communication needs of care home residents with dementia and hearing loss are often overlooked.

The “ORCHARD” study by the Institute of Mental Health’s Centre for Dementia has developed a theory for how care homes could manage hearing communication better. An academic team worked alongside people living in care settings and those with lived experience throughout the project.

Difficulties with hearing loss can lead to social withdrawal and isolation, depression and reduced quality of life.

There is evidence that hearing loss is related to an increased risk of dementia.



Barriers to good hearing health in care homes include: care home residents unable to use hearing aids properly due to ill-fitting devices, lack of batteries, lack of knowledge about how to wear them correctly or needing help to wear them correctly.



5 key actions for good hearing health in care homes

1 Have a positive regard and empathy for residents through a person centred approach.



2 Leadership staff to encourage staff training focused on hearing loss in dementia.

3 Take time to understand individuals and their communication wants and needs.



4 Regularly monitor residents’ hearing, supported by appropriate person centred care planning.

5 Manage the noise in your care home setting.

