

Care Home Visits – Round 2

Evaluation Report:

1 Year On – A summary of activity, feedback and comments

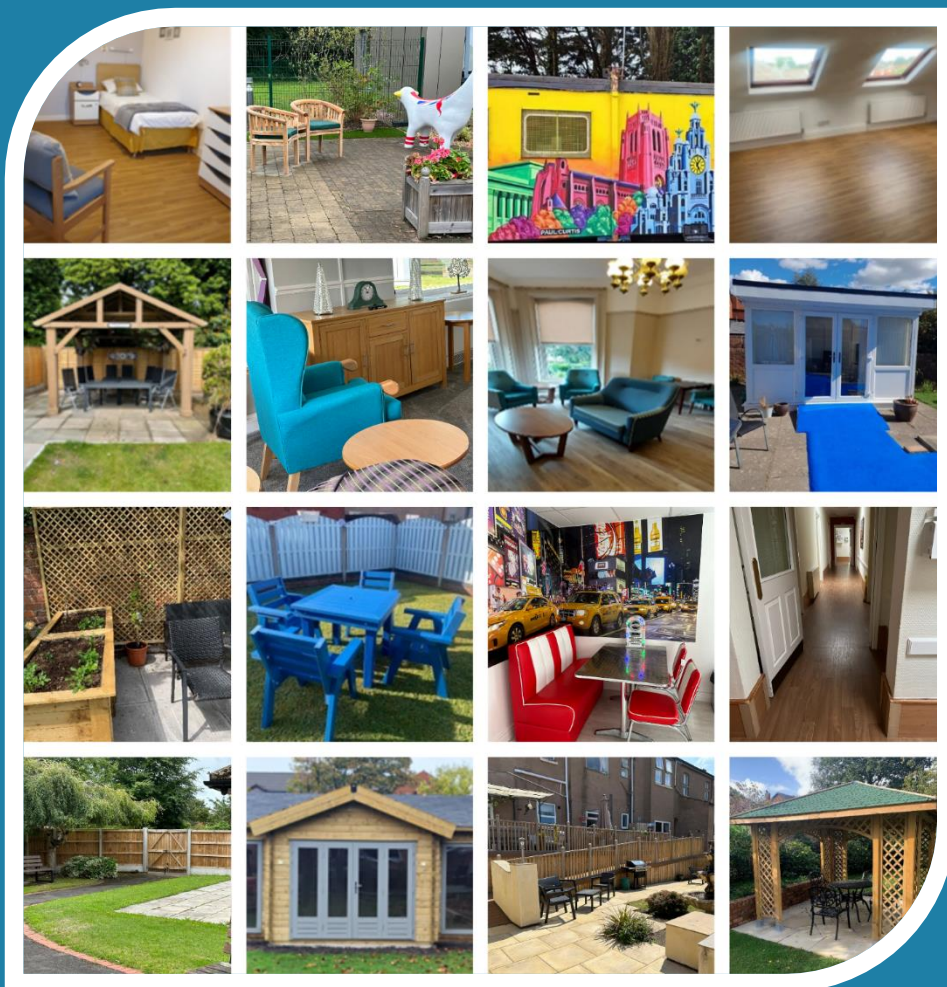


Table of Contents

Care Home Improvements Round 1 2020/21	2
Criteria	2
Round 2 allocated spend summary	3
Round 2 spend allocations.....	3
Summary of Projects	4
Outcomes and recommendations	6
Details of projects	6
Ann Slade	6
Benridge Care Home	7
Cambridge Court.....	8
Cedar Grange	9
Cloisters and Craignair	10
Edge Hall	11
Good Companions	12
Halcyon House.....	12
James Page	13
Locharwoods Formby	13
Lyndale	14
Margaret Roper.....	15
Melrose Court	16
Peacehaven	17
Revitalise – The Sandpipers	18
Rosebank.....	18
Sandley Court	19
Southport Rest Home	20
The Hollies	22
Woodlands Manor.....	23
Additional comments	24

This report provides an evaluation and a summary of activity in delivering the Capital Programme Care Home Improvements Grants Round 2 2021/22 one year on. The grants have helped to support our care homes to help make the home more dementia friendly and improve outcomes for care home residents.

Care Home Improvements – Round 1 2020/21

In 2021, Sefton Council launched Round 2 of a Care Home Improvement Grants Programme, as part of its continued commitment to support the local residential and nursing care home sector, to further improve the quality of services and outcomes for our residents. The focus of the Care Home Improvement Grants Programme is to both make care homes more dementia friendly and to increase positive living experiences for Service Users and their families/advocates.

Criteria

- Improvements to gardens / outdoor spaces / communal areas to afford residents and their families improved opportunities to access outdoor spaces and use areas for improved social interaction and activities.
- Improvements to communal areas within the care home to support greater social interaction.
- Improvements to areas within the care home, making them more dementia friendly and to providing an environment which reduces Service User anxiety/distress.
- The purchasing of technological solutions/equipment (for example Interactive Tables and Robotic Pets) for use by Service Users in order to improve their quality of life.
- Make physical improvements to care home environments which may support Covid safe environments.

The Council received a total of 34 applications for R2 Care Home Improvement Grants from Sefton Care Homes. These applications were reviewed and considered using the criteria above by an Independent Panel.

Round 2 allocated spend summary

Round 2 spend allocations:

- 2nd round of Care Home Improvement grants total Grant application approved monies £399,990.00.
- 32 applications were approved out of a total of 34 applications submitted.
- 11 of these applications had also received R1 grant funding.
- 30 out of the 32 approved care homes have completed projects as of end October 23.
- 2 care homes have outstanding final / completed works reports to be submitted.
- 3 applications were not approved.
- 4 Grant awards were returned to the council due to inability to complete works (reasons given included increased costs for works, out of project timeframe, unable to contract with appropriate suppliers). Total amount returned was £36,250.00.

As of end Oct 23: 30 homes have completed their projects successfully and provided all associated documentation, and 2 care home providers are progressing projects outstanding.

Summary of Projects

- **Ann Slade** – Dementia friendly communal chairs.
- **Avalon Care Home** – sensory lounge, outside sensory room, Interactive Table and iPads.
- **Benridge** – Hardware iPads / other portable devices x4 Bedroom furniture bedroom sets x15 Signage.
- **Cambridge Court** – External Cabin refurbishment, hair salon.
- **Cedar Grange** – Garden improvements and covered seating areas, accessible paths and sensory spaces.
- **Cloisters** – Flooring, Lounge furniture, Dining room/activities room furniture, Dementia Friendly bedroom Furniture, Interactive table, Redecoration of all communal walls and doors, Blackout curtains for all bedrooms.
- **Craignair** - Flooring, Lounge furniture, Dining room/activities room furniture, Dementia Friendly bedroom Furniture, Interactive table, Redecoration of all communal walls and doors, Blackout curtains for all bedrooms, new activities room furniture, interactive table.
- **Edge Hall** – Interactive Table.
- **Ellerslie Care Home** – Refurbishment of conservatory (will be completed by end Oct 2023)
- **Good Companions** - Hardware iPads /other portable devices x furniture/chairs, Signage.
- **Halcyon House** – perimeter fencing – garden area.
- **James Page** – dementia friendly flooring.
- **Locharwoods (Formby)** – Garden improvements and outdoor furniture.
- **Lyndale** – Replacement of communal carpets, flooring, lounge chairs, garden improvements.
- **Margaret Roper** – refurbishment of conservatory.
- **Melrose Court** – ramps, outdoor improvements, blinds, sensory lighting, multi purpose garden room, outdoor furniture.
- **Nazareth House** – Sensory Room, lighting, interactive Table, flooring, cinema projector, VR headsets, IP boxes.

- **James Page** – dementia friendly flooring in corridors.
- **Peacehaven** – sensory garden and environment.
- **Revitalise -The Sandpipers** – SR technology, silent call bell system, Wi-Fi upgrade.
- **Rosebank** – activities cabin in garden.
- **Sandley Court** – dementia friendly bedroom furniture, dementia clocks, memory boxes, non-slip flooring in bedrooms, dementia friendly bench, flooring in lounge and hall area.
- **Southport Rest Home** – dementia friendly hairdressers, memory café, dementia clocks and USB photo frames.
- **The Beeches** – interactive Table.
- **The Hollies** – improve patio area, gardening club area, repair decking, lounge chairs and dementia friendly bedroom furniture.
- **Warren Park** – Summerhouse, Signage, portable sensory items, video conferencing station, ECM hardware, Wi-Fi upgrade.
- **Woodlands Manor** – outdoor garden access, electronic care planning system, interactive table.

Outcomes and Recommendations

Project delays and delays in receiving signed agreements from providers has meant that some quarterly monitoring reports for a small number of identified providers has been fractured. By October 2023, 30 R2 grants had been fully paid for completed works/ projects. 2 care homes still have works outstanding and 6 care homes were unable to complete works and grants paid were returned to the local authority.

Feedback has been really positive from all care homes that were awarded the grants.

Our care home providers have successfully implemented a wide range of projects, which have improved their environment. Projects included the installation of sensory spaces both indoors and outdoors, summer house and conservatory refurbishments, cool touch radiators, dementia friendly furniture, interactive tables and Wi-Fi upgrades, TEC and digital equipment such as interactive tables, robotic toys / companion pets, dementia friendly lighting, carpets, decoration and installation of wet rooms and a hair salon for residents.

Round 3 Grant criteria now includes more emphasis on TEC specific element and considerations for digital energy saving solutions to reduce carbon footprint and to support the ongoing running of care homes during current increased energy costs.

Details of projects

Ann Slade

Dementia Friendly dining furniture.

Previous chairs in the communal areas of the home appeared worn and were not suitable for the homes service users as most individuals who reside at the home present with mobility difficulties and cognitive impairment.

The new chairs appear to be a lot easier for the homes service users to sit down in and get up from as they are higher than the homes previous chairs, all the new chairs have pressure reliving cushions which somewhat reduces the risk of potential pressure areas becoming compromised for those who present with poor skin integrity.

The homes service users and family members are thrilled with the new chairs and have stated how much better they are for everybody.

Benridge Care Home

Benridge was awarded a Care Home Improvement Grant to provide wider technology to support reminiscence therapy, brain training, music therapy and improve contact with family to improve their quality of life and for use by Service Users to key real time data about each resident.

The technology (including iPads and other hardware) provides up to date information for staff, family members and residents about their care and support, and it ensures timely and proactive actions being taken to respond to individuals care needs.

The Grant also enabled the provider to purchase dementia friendly garden furniture and dementia friendly bedroom furniture. This has helped reduce the number of resident falls and alleviates anxiety for residents.

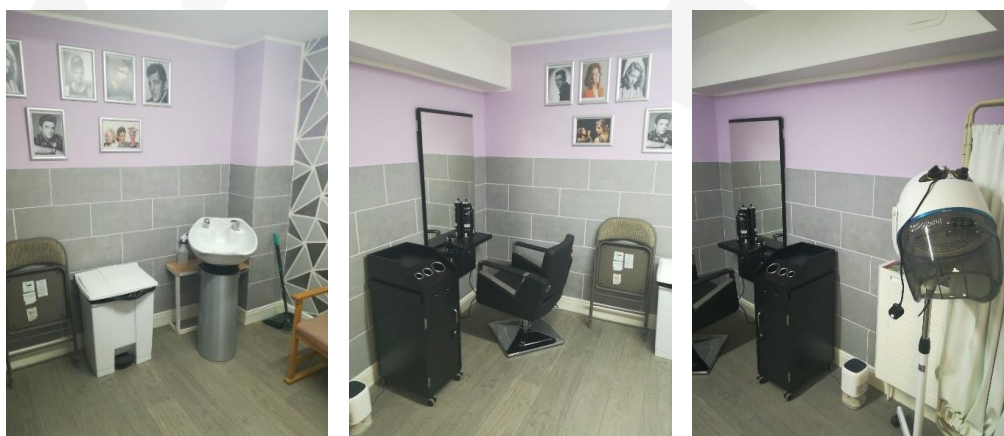
Additionally, the provider has purchased signage to help with way finding and orientation. This relieves stress and anxiety for residents and supports their independence.



Cambridge Court

Hair Salon and External Cabin refurbishment.

Dementia friendly Hair Salon has benefited residents by allowing a safe and welcoming environment for residents to enjoy a hair and beauty treatments. Resident's dignity is being maintained by ensuring they continue to experience treatments they previously did. This has had a positive experience on their well being.



Cabin refurbishment has created a welcoming external space for residents to enjoy activities. A short walk from the home residents can enjoy arts and crafts and dementia friendly activities. Our Facebook page truly showcases the variety of activities our residents experience. The space is also enjoyed with friends and relatives to maintain social contact.



Cedar Grange

Garden refurb, Garden gate for access for children's Nursery playground upgrade, decking and seating area and Gazebo.

The home sent out a questionnaire to residents and relatives for any ideas for the garden project and have received some positive feedback. They met with the Nursery Manager, and they informed parents of the project who were very supportive, and they were excited about the garden access for the children to use.

The nursery children provided the home with a booklet of their ideas and wishes for the garden project, and they created a garden gate for the nursery to access the garden which is locked from their side for safety purposes.

Cedar Grange now have a large wooden gazebo for the residents to sit under with Garden furniture. They have installed a large decking area for the residents and visitors to use when using the bistro inside the home which has sheltered from the rain via an awning structure.

Childrens playground equipment was purchased which is ij situ in the rear garden and the nursery has access to this at any time as the gate we installed opens from the nursey side.

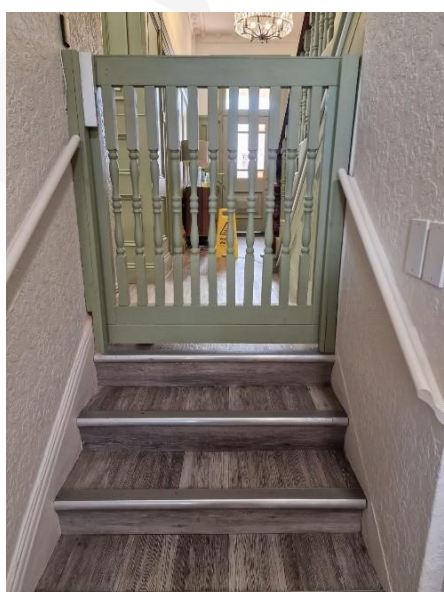


Cloisters and Craignair

Dementia friendly environmental improvements including dementia friendly carpets, lounge and dining furniture and dementia friendly bedroom upgrades.

Previously all carpets were patterned, and they have now changed to wooden flooring or dementia grade carpets. This has made a dramatic difference to the residents, as less falls, and less confusion.

Also, the flooring has made infection control easier as hard wooden floors are easier to clean.



Lounge furniture – all lounge furniture has now changed to wipeable cloths. They are sturdier and give more support to each resident.

Bedrooms – 9 of the bedrooms have been refurbished with new flooring, new furniture, curtains and painted the walls from patterned wallpaper to calming colours.

Dementia friendly décor in communal areas - changed the patterned wallpapers in the communal areas to more modern colours. Less distraction for the dementia residents.

Storage space has been added in the lounges, as there was none, and residents were accessing items that were not suitable.

The home has received fantastic feedback from social workers and professionals. They are especially happy with the new flooring in the lounges and the hallways. Staff are extremely happy now too.

Cloisters is a very small home with limited with space for activities (which can be messy).

The new wooden flooring has meant the staff can be flexible with what activities they do and where they do them, which has really benefitted the residents.

Wi-Fi upgrades have also been completed at Cloisters which has significantly improved staff experiences in being able to respond more quickly to nurse calls, electronic care management systems and this has given them more capacity to spend quality time with residents during the day.



Edge Hall

During the pandemic period the residents of edge hall care home had been affected due to isolation and covid safety. This meant that service users could not get to see the family and friends as much as they would normally.

Having an interactive table has provided alternative and additional means of keeping in touch with loved ones.

Residents can take part in new activities together when using the interactive table and has improved mental health and increased communication and interaction with residents, staff, and visitors to the home.

Good Companions

Grant awarded for Care home to improve their Dementia friendly environment with Dementia friendly contrasting chairs and dementia friendly bedroom furniture.

This reduces falls and alleviates anxiety for residents.



Halcyon House



Grant awarded to provide perimeter fencing in the garden area. At the time of the Grants Programme Halcyon House had 1 resident who had moved into the home with Dementia. By securing the perimeter all residents are now able to enjoy the outdoor space and the home is now able to consider more dementia referrals into the home.

James Page

James Page was awarded a grant to replace the flooring with dementia friendly flooring. The project has now been completed and all flooring is now dementia friendly ensuring service users can move around easily and safely.

The home has also purchased signage to help with way finding and orientation. This relieves stress and anxiety for residents and supports their independence.



Locharwoods Formby

Garden prepared and sheds removed, paving replaced and levelled, larger patio area created.

Cedar pavilion with Aluminium roof erected, lights attached.

Plants bought and plaque for Jubilee Garden ready for Jubilee Party 3rd June 2022.

“All residents really happy with the new patio and seating area, we where able to invite families along to our Jubilee Party and had full use of the seating area, still leaving plenty of room around the garden for residents to walk with purpose, or to sit and relax in an afternoon.

“Families have commented on how nice and relaxed the garden looks now.

“We shall continue to work on the garden space, introducing high raised sleepers for the residents to be able to plant flowers and look after them, ensuring the garden remains a safe and calming place for all.”



Lyndale

Grant awarded for the purchase of an electronic care records management system, dementia friendly carpets in communal areas and garden improvements.

The EPC has proved fundamental in the ease of both recording care and to allow key care factors to immediately be highlighted. Encourages adherence to safe and effective care through prompting care needs or highlighting shortfalls. Staff can immediately see fluid levels and mood of residents (for example) and therefore act on resolving any highlighted needs straight away.

Multi Disciplinary Teams can receive relevant information with ease with regard to any aspect of resident care, such as care plans, fluid/diet reports. All information is accessible both promptly and simply at the touch of a button. The ‘timesaving’ element in the sharing of information between healthcare professionals to seek positive outcomes for residents in a prompt and timely manner is priceless.

Families can be informed in much more detail of timeframes and care given in a ‘live’ way. The feedback from families has been extremely positive as they now feel

more informed of how their family member is doing due to receiving a more accurate and detailed report on enquiry.

A wheelchair accessible bed has been installed at the bottom of the garden here at Lyndale. The product is quite large and therefore we have decided that 1 of these is sufficient to meet the purpose of the requirement at the current time. The beds have been filled with seasonal herbs, residents have taken part in planting and monitoring of the herb garden.

The chef has enjoyed going into the garden to use the herbs grown to prepare home cooked meals.

Residents over the summer months have been able to enjoy the garden and multiuse the area to prepare and decorate pots and stones for the raised bed and further garden.

Margaret Roper

Grant awarded for refurbishment of the conservatory.

The project of building the conservatory has now been completed. It provides a clean, bright and welcoming space for residents, staff and visitors. It has been completed to a high standard, with two lantern roofs providing natural daylight.

The conservatory makes the residents feel safe and valued and has had a positive impact on their well-being. Visitors have been very impressed with the renovation and a celebratory event was held on 17th December 2022 as part of the grand opening.

Melrose Court

The summer house was installed at the beginning of summer 2022 and has been thoroughly enjoyed by residents and their families, it has provided an area where families are able to enjoy much needed quality time together, during the warmer months.

Residents have also very much enjoyed the space together, especially during the queen's jubilee when we held many celebrations outside.

Staff often use the space, especially during entertainment activities.

The dementia friendly pathways have been installed outside and the area looks amazing, and, for those residents that are more mobile, they have been very impressed with the improvements.

"We ourselves will continue to improve and maintain the outside areas of our home as we understand the impact of having more areas has had on our Residents."



Peace Haven

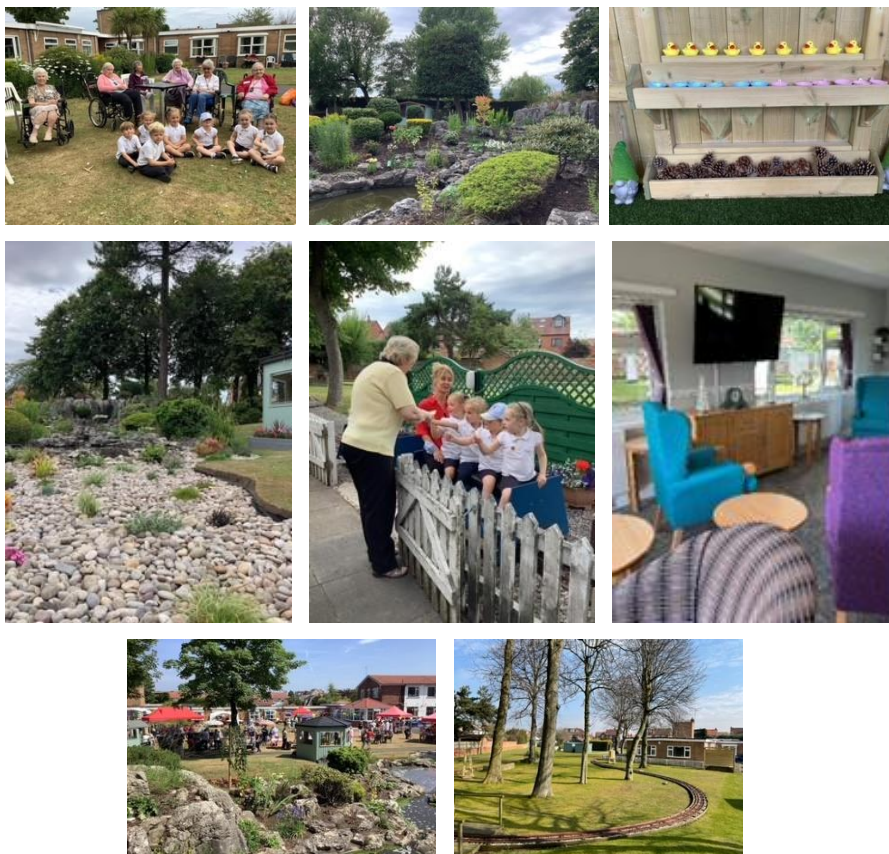
Grant awarded for a sensory garden and environment.

The home has created a waterfall garden sensory retreat with bench seating, artificial grass floor, reminiscing & curiosity boxes, book & magazine shelves, sensory chimes, solar lighting and 4 sensory planters.

They have enhanced their existing model railway by adding a timber water tower, model windmill & bench seating creating a station area with a timber deck.

“Our garden is an important focal point, and all residents are encouraged to use the areas to either socialise together, meet up with friends and family, sit and quietly watch the world go by and remember. Residents discuss and or partake in seasonal planting or drawing of the environment around them.”

“The residents absolutely love the model railway, and we have strived to achieve a stimulus to reminisce and encourage older happier memories and basically have fun with their fellow residents and families.”



Revitalise – The SandPipers

The Sandpipers were awarded a grant to purchase Virtual Reality (VR) equipment that enables tailored sensory stimulation. The Grant also enabled the provider to upgrade their Wi-Fi system to support the VR equipment and to provide for guests to stay better connected with friends and family during their stay. The provider match funded the grant so that they could install a state-of-the-art alarm call system that will enhance both care provision and respite experience.

They wanted to pilot Virtual Reality, where they could provide an extensive volume of sensory stimuli that would be tailored to individuals and their needs and helping guests with Dementia.

Virtual Reality is computer technology that replicates an environment, real or imagined, and at the same time simulates a user's physical presence and environment to allow for interaction. It creates a sensory experience, including sight, touch and hearing.

Rosebank

Garden Pod

“A huge thanks for this. We are delighted, it was some challenge getting this established so we are over the moon!”

Rosebank wanted to establish a free standing, fully heated, furnished activities and visiting cabin situated in the rear external garden of the care home. The facility will be a showcase dementia case study.

The Pod has created a beautiful, relaxing yet engaging, luxury space for the residents, their local friends and their families. Rosebank match funded their Grant award in order to maximise financial resources.

The activities cabin, equipped with internet allows Rosebank residents to enjoy the external outdoor space and socialise with their family and friends. Large bi-folding doors allow this space to be enjoyed in all weathers and time of year.

It was intended that activities and relatives visiting, will be held within the cabin instead of sitting at a cold external table which happened previously. An old wooden shed and covered space was demolished to make way for this outstanding new facility.

The internal space is dementia and learning disabilities friendly following the latest guidance. Disabled ramping and access doors allow all residents to gain safe access to this space.

The space is technologically enabled with internet, webcams for families abroad, wall projection units and a more appropriate space for the home's interactive tables.

The cabin has underfloor heating and CCTV to ensure resident safety at all times. Residents and their families were involved in the design and creation of this amazing facility, and it is a show case facility enabled via the grant award.



Sandley Court

Project included the purchase of new dementia friendly lounge furniture and replacement dementia friendly flooring for lounge and hall areas and for bedrooms.

The home has also gone through transition with a new owner which added to some minor delays in completion, but all agreed works have now been done and residents are enjoying a new and safe environment. Additional works will include the purchase of dementia clocks, memory pets and the purchase of 3 dementia-coloured benches for residents to enjoy in the garden.

The residents who come into the communal areas now benefit from a nicer environment with more to stimulate them and the activity co-ordinator is able to better engage with hard of hearing residents and residents who are visually impaired.



Southport Rest Home

Dementia Friendly Hairdressers and retro 1950's café and seating area. The décor includes dementia friendly furnishings, with pictures and memorabilia personal to the residents many of whom will assist in the preparation of such.

Residents with dementia can also experience reduced mobility so getting in and out of a chair can be hard. Therefore, the home purchased dementia friendly chairs that offer flexible support allowing, residents to sit in a well-supported position, and to sit down and stand up safely.

The tone of these spaces is light-hearted and fun with the option to invite people from the local community to join therefore embracing and supporting those recently diagnosed with dementia along with their families.

Grooming for ladies and gentlemen plays an important part in self-esteem, morale and also creates sensory awareness with the different smells of shampoos, lotions, brylcreem triggering memories and conversations.

During discussions with their residents, retro-styled areas provoked quite a reaction.

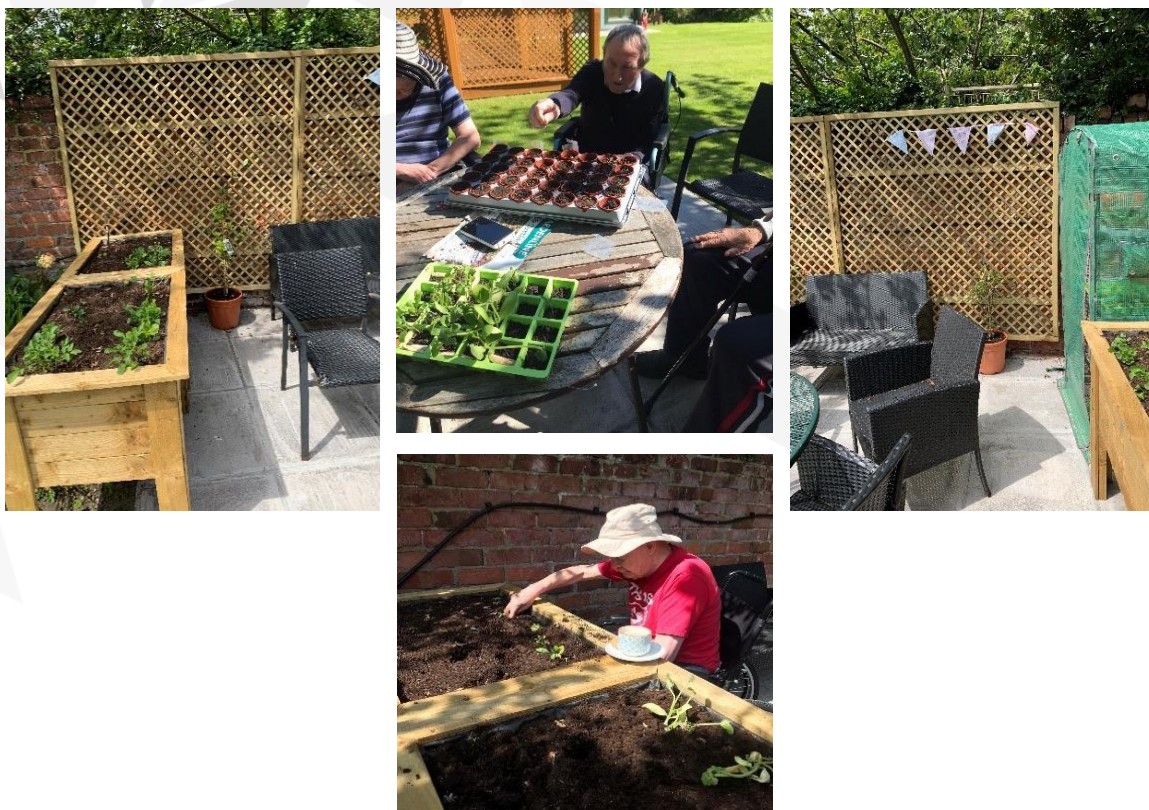
The dementia salon incorporates pictures and memorabilia that is personal to the residents along with sensory lights and specialised equipment to assist those unable

to use a back wash, due to back problems, or an inability to stay still for longer periods.

A qualified hairdresser also trained in Dementia care runs the salon which offers services to both male and female residents. Limited items of equipment are used at any one time so that the noise factor is minimised, noise often being a source of anxiety to those with dementia.



The Hollies



The residents said that they wanted to start a Gardening club but before being awarded the Grant, The Hollies did not have a safe, wheelchair access allocated area within the garden that could be utilised in this way. The patio and the seating area was repaired, and residents now have planters at waist height so they don't need to bend down, and they have a lovely safe area where they can go to on their own if they wish.

Gardening really helps with the Mental state of mind and well-being. The residents can now grow herbs and vegetables and pot flowers. For people with Dementia, time spent in gardens can help them relax and feel calm, they will generally become less agitated and distressed if they can have regular access to fresh air.

It is a form of physical activity that can help improve strength, balance and flexibility which are important for those with Dementia who maybe experiencing sensory impairment and a loss of muscle tone. It can give someone a sense of purpose and can be something to talk about.

The residents can now put box flower beds on the decking area now that is has been repaired and painted, and this is an ideal area where residents can meet and chat as its adjacent to the proposed "gardening club area."

Woodlands Manor

Woodlands Manor used their grant to construct a decked outdoor area and for garden refurbishment and improvement with a paved area, raised planter beds for residents to grow seasonal vegetables, fruit and flowers. A gazebo has been erected over the decking area, so residents now have access all year round. installed for residents to have access to the garden.

Decking furniture and accessories are now in place for the residents to access the decking area freely. A security gate has been installed for residents' safety until the ramp and patio area below is completed. The flagging area has been completed and a water fountain is now in place for the residents.

The home has also purchased an interactive table for residents to use and play games. Residents enjoy using the Tovitol table which stimulates social interaction for all.



Additional Comments:

The Care Home Improvement Grants Programme has been hugely successful in supporting care homes to make dementia friendly environmental improvements to their buildings and outdoor spaces that have had a really positive impact on the daily living experiences of their residents, staff teams and visitors to the homes. Over the past 2 Rounds of the Grants Programme, Sefton Council has awarded £609,003.22 in Grants.

From feedback received from providers, the next Round of the Capital Grants Programme will include a criteria element that considers the use of digital technology for the resident activities and social interaction, that can assist and support residents, and technology that can support care home providers to be more energy efficient, reducing their carbon footprint, promoting greener and more cost effective solutions to energy saving products.

