

Brookside Residential Home

Brookside is a medium size care home situated in Bedford, with capacity to house 22 residents. The care home cares for and supports younger and elderly adults including those with learning disabilities. Additionally, Brookside can support people with physical disabilities and sensory impairment.

Scenario

The setting:

We have one gentleman who spends the majority of the time in his bedroom and has to be encouraged to come out of his room for mealtimes. Often, we would find him asleep and he refuses to engage in activities, in or outside of his room. When we introduced RITA we knew of his love for western films, so we started playing western films whilst he came down for mealtimes.

He now comes down for breakfast, mostly without prompting and asks if he can use the computer to find his favourite film. He spends more of his day out of his bedroom and he isn't sleeping through the day as much because he is downstairs using RITA.

The Outcome:

Introducing RITA to this home has improved this gentleman's engagement and wellbeing. Staff had previously tried numerous ways to encourage him to join in with activities and to spend time with others, with little success. He instantly engaged with RITA and is more motivated and engaging more with others on a daily basis.

Operations Manager Comments:

Following the introduction of RITA in January 2022, our homes have already seen some very positive outcomes.

Additionally...

- Some staff who have historically been scared of using IT and digital platforms are enjoying using RITA as it is so simple to navigate and this will hopefully provide them with confidence to engage with other digital platforms. Staff in all settings have reported that they are enjoying using RITA with the residents.
- The wide content in RITA is providing staff with more resources and options to engage residents and in a visual manner which is easier for many residents with cognitive impairments because they may struggle to maintain and process conversations with staff to identify this.
- The homes have used tablets with residents for several years, but we have witnessed that the larger RITA trolley unit is engaging residents who have not shown any interest in digital content previously, due to the larger size, closeness and clarity of the screen.