

# **BEYOND THE FRONT DOOR: What ‘home’ means to people with dementia and their carers**

**Top Tips for commissioners regarding positive transitions for people with dementia**

* **Ensure that post-Diagnostic support programmes include opportunities to explore**

**housing options** as well as financial and legal planning.

* **The environment is a key factor in supporting a person with dementia** and determining quality of life. Adapting the physical environment of the home can improve physical and emotional health and well-being, including cognitive functioning, and supports the person’s independence.
* **People with dementia continue to feel things strongly and have opinions about what matters to them.** Their participation in planning and decision making

 therefore needs to be enshrined in contracting expectations.

* **Commission for ‘home’ as the default option:** Home is a place of strong attachments – to people, place and objects – that are part of the person, their sense of identity and their reality. Ensure that commissioned services understand the significance of home in how they provide care and support.
* **Help shape the market to meet the particular needs of people with dementia from all communities** e.g. LGB&T, people without children, people with young onset dementia, different ethnic communities, people with physical and sensory

 impairments.

* **Develop possibilities for home-based assessments and home-based respite care;** familiar surroundings will enable more realistic assessments.
* **Ensure that housing providers are involved as equal partners in all strategic**

 **planning, at service provider levels and as part of assessment processes.** Housing

 providers have valuable information about how individuals manage in their

 accommodation and possible adaptations to support them in their own homes.

* **Utilise local strategic partnerships** to promote the importance of home and

 identity in planning for health and well-being.

* **Ensure that equity and rights** underpin all commissioning by incorporating the Equality Act, UN Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities, Care Act 2014, Human Rights Act 1998 and the social model of disability to give a strong legal and inclusive

framework.

* **Involve people with dementia and carers in strategic planning** and provide training to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities.