

# Intergeneration care helping people living with dementia



24 May, 2019

Intergenerational care is an effective way of helping people living with dementia, with care providers and participants praising this way of working.

This type of care brings the young and elderly together, with care providers working more with groups, such as nurseries and primary schools to provide this new style of care. One care provider that uses intergenerational care is West Midlands based Accord Housing Association to help its customers who are living with dementia.

Using this method at its Dementia Cafes and care homes, Accord is enhancing the way it provides care to its customers. While more research is needed to understand why intergenerational care works Janine Hayes, Accord's Dementia Café Co-ordinator says she has seen this type of care help customers interact and engage better.

She said: "Since the children have started coming to the dementia cafes, and you see a huge change in the person they are interacting with. Our café users really look forward to seeing the children, some of them just enjoy watching the children play as it helps to bring out their memories of childhood.

"One person who attends our café has seen many benefits since the children started attending the café in November 2018, with one support worker telling me their customer was more interactive and it has helped bring their personality out. Even though more research is still being carried out to gather evidence that intergenerational work, works we can definitely see the benefits it brings our customers."

Janine Parker cares for her husband Gary, aged 73 and regularly attends the Dementia Cafes in Walsall. She said that since the children have been part of it, it's really helped Gary's confidence and has helped him communicate better with their eight grandchildren.

As well as, helping people living with dementia, intergenerational work is also used to help older people who may be

lonely, and there has been an increase across the UK with the amount of care settings working with local schools and nurseries.Â

Accord delivers dementia care in a range of services including residential care, extra care and community projects. Intergenerational care is also being used effectively in these settings to support people with dementia.

Dementia Action Week runs until Sunday (May 26), for more information visit: <https://bit.ly/2IqIraN> or for more information on Accord's Dementia Cafes visit <https://bit.ly/2qYUjrW>

---