

# IMAGINE a WORLD where....



.... local neighbours don't think twice about offering to pop in to care homes to help out; where children laugh, listen and learn from our elders; where churches and arts groups meet -inviting residents to also join in; Where young people share their mixtapes, songs, stories and help residents to share theirs. Where local and corporate companies enable their employees to spend time with care home residents; where pubs, theatres, sports grounds find ways to make it easier for care home residents to come and join in their events where there is a true sense of understanding of these places and their value in supporting our frailest citizens and where everyone feels part of a bigger effort to help care homes be great places to live, work, visit and end one's days.



## Its already happening.... Introducing Care Home Friends and Neighbours (FaNs) UK.

- Young fire service cadets act as personal escorts to help to enable care home residents who wish to do so attend Remembrance Day services One resident: *"I fought my way through Burma and Borneo and wasn't going to miss what might be my last chance to remember and honour my fallen comrades."*
- Five year old Daniel gets on famously with 101 year old Rosalind, with whom he likes to share his passion for superheroes. As his Nana says: *"it's these little visits, short and sweet, that can make all the difference to those living in care homes - and the youngsters love it just as much."*
- Children in a nursery school make drawings and birthday cards for the residents of a local care home and the residents reciprocate, enjoying the contact with the children and knowing they are helping their learning.
- On hearing about FaNs, the local Zoo immediately offers to make available free tickets for care home residents and carers and arrange visits to care homes (complete with animals) during the winter months.
- The local supermarket donates a vinyl record player for residents to play their old favourites and help to decorate a local care home for Christmas.





Help us create a world where care homes for older people are cherished by their local communities.... Care Home Friends & Neighbours



The model is based on the simple idea that people living in care homes are no less our neighbours than those living in their own homes. They have much to offer us and we have much to offer them. And however hard care home staff work to improve the quality of life they can't do it all. What friends and neighbours offer and receive, money cannot buy.

initiative not least because there is widespread recognition that the benefits of participation go both ways.

'Care Home Friends and Neighbours' is a model that has been developed in Essex with huge success. Acting as a community catalyst, offering simple encouragement and practical support at a local level, care homes and their surrounding communities are recognising the benefits of participating in the FaNs movement. There is a deep well of goodwill in our communities towards the people who live in care homes that remains untapped. Individuals, schools and youth groups, organisations, businesses are keen to associate with the 'care home friends & neighbours'

We believe that FaNs represents a virtually unlimited opportunity and resource to help initiate a positive change in the relationship between care homes and their local communities at a UK level. We are currently exploring the development of a UK portal and local activities that will be mutually reinforcing.



MY HOME LIFE AND NAPA DELIVERING THE FaNs VISION

"Be in no doubt, a small group of thoughtful, committed people could change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

*Margaret Mead*

My Home Life and NAPA have volunteered to sow the seeds of this initiative by developing the model and building a core group of individuals who together can help deliver the vision for FaNs.

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