



BRACKNELL FOREST HOME SUPPORT DEMENTIA TEAM



In 2003 Pathfinders Care Training was successful in its bid for funding from the Department of Health via the Skills for Care New Types of Worker scheme. This successful bid led to the development of a locally based project designed to provide a flexible and responsive person centred, service to elderly people thereby enabling them to avoid admission to hospital or residential/nursing care.

This successful service developed and delivered in partnership with Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, challenges the way domiciliary care is traditionally delivered which is time limited and task orientated and delivers a more person centred outcome based service.

This type of service delivery provides the support necessary to maintain people in their own homes rather than having to move to institutional care.

The home support staff are highly trained to ensure they have the competence to deliver the required services. The manner in which the service is managed and structured enables the worker to provide support to relative-carers thereby enabling them to continue in the caring role. This has resulted in a reduction in requests for crisis/urgent admission to hospital or residential/nursing care.

Continued funding for this new and innovative service has been through the Local Area Agreements. Regular monitoring and statistics show that the service is achieving above the targets required.

Future plans include mainstreaming and expanding the service to provide more hours of care and support to meet a growing need in the community.

On the 25th October 2007 The team and service was voted National Winner of Winners at the Skills for Care Accolades honouring their pioneering work with people with dementia.

They beat off stiff competition from all over the country to win the most innovative New Type of Worker or Way of Working.

They were recognised for the far-reaching initiative centred on partnerships with the Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and other stakeholders.

A survey of service users and their relatives-carers found that they were treated with respect, that their views were taken into account by Home Support Workers and that there had been an improvement in peoples emotional and mental health.