



Stimulating Hallways Matter

Dementia Care Matters and our Butterfly Service™ homes strongly believe that stimulating hallways are a key feature for people living in a specialist dementia care home.

A new category has been established for care homes to meet fire regulations. This has resulted in increased limitations on what fire departments will accept in terms of items in hallways. Care homes are finding themselves needing to review the ways that hallways remain stimulating.

We remain confident that this is possible - to remind people why it is important:

- Hallways not 'corridors' are a key sign that a care home is being just that - a home
- Engaging Hallways are one part of establishing a household model
- Hallways need to be brightly painted to avoid a sterile look and feel of an institution or hospital.
- Orientation in hallways is crucial for people living with a dementia – no two hallways should look the same.
- Providing cues for interest and conversation as people move around the home is beneficial for people living and working together. They help staff to be creative as they encourage someone to walk to a different part of the home.

This is possible by following a few key principles for hallways:

- Paint hallways in bright colours to enhance mood and aid orientation – where hallways change direction; change the colour with it.
- Wall murals painted in fire retardant paint can depict specific themed areas that are relevant to the lives of people living in the home.
- Enhance murals with the currently popular metal art these also add a 3D effect.
- Memory boxes and framed life histories behind glass by people's bedroom doors remain a personal feature for interest and orientation.
- Hang other pictures and showcases behind glass that are meaningful.



- Creative use of ceramics on walls can be tactile and colourful.

Other things to remember:

- Staff wearing colourful clothes, hats and carrying items in aprons and activity belts will always have something to hand to engage people.
- Coat stands, rummage boxes, feather boas, hats, soft animals and tactile materials can all remain in lounges as valuable items for stimulation and comfort – these can still live in the lounges and dining rooms of our homes.



Things to avoid:

- Items hanging from hallway ceilings – such as flowers and bunting.
- Placing items made of plastic on walls.
- Hanging items that are loose such as clothing.
- Artwork on canvas.
- Creating additional seating or activity areas in hallways with furniture and “stuff.”

Dementia Care Matters has supplied 100's of photographs and video footage over many years to help people visualise how stimulating hallways can be. This look that we have shared is as valuable today as it was 19 years ago when David Sheard began this approach at Merevale House. Thousands of people living with a dementia and working in dementia care have proved the difference it makes. We will over time show new and positive ways to create engaging hallways. We would like to stress that the overall look remains valued and hallways continue to be developed but this needs to be achieved alongside the new fire requirements.

Please be prepared for your next fire inspection and that it might not follow the same path of your last one. Be prepared to move your loose items to lounges and remain positive that **STIMULATING HALLWAYS MATTER** but also to remember that they represent a very small element of the many successful features that are evidenced when Care Homes adopt the Feelings Matter Most model in Butterfly Care Homes.



Dementia Care Matters and the many homes that we are working with remain determined NOT to return homes to a world of MAGNOLIA.

We urge you to continue to be creative and we promise to share new photos of successful hallways meeting 2014 fire regulation standards as soon as we have them. Please send them to us!

This image is a painted mural