

Questions to ask yourself

The task of improving care in care homes rests with a wide range of people, all of whom have a responsibility to achieve improvements. To help people to reflect on what they should or could do to improve care for people with dementia there are sets of “Questions to ask yourself”, designed for care home managers and providers, commissioners and [Care Quality Commission](#) inspectors. The questions are drawn directly from the findings in the discussion paper, ‘[Improving care in care homes in the South West](#)’.

Health and social care commissioners		Yes; I know this because ..	No; But I am planning to..
1	Our contracting arrangements require that care homes have an identified member of staff who is recognised as the dementia lead / champion.		
2	Our contracting arrangements require that care homes keep up to date about best dementia practice.		
3	Our contracting arrangements place minimum expectations on staff training. They ensure that staff know what dementia is, how it is experienced, and the importance working from the perspective of the person with dementia.		
4	Our contracting arrangements require that care homes have a robust quality assurance system, which includes an assessment of the experience of people living in the home.		
5	Our contracting arrangements require that care homes have effective management arrangements in place.		
6	People requiring placement are properly assessed and placed in care homes which are able to meet their needs.		

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Health and social care commissioners		Yes; I know this because ..	No; But I am planning to..
7	We have commissioned effective specialist mental health in reach support, available to all our care homes.		
8	We have commissioned effective GP and primary health care support to our care homes.		
9	We have the right range and balance of care homes to meet needs of people with a range of dementia conditions.		
10	We have sufficient commissioning capacity to manage and oversee our care home market.		
11	Our contract specifications, monitoring arrangements and quality assurance systems are based upon person centred outcomes.		
12	Our workforce development plan recognises the need to provide effective dementia training to care home staff across council run and independent sectors.		
13	We have an effective joint health and social care strategy to provide support to failing homes.		
14	Our funding arrangements provide some flexibility across health and social care and can respond to changing levels of need.		