

# Dignity in Care factsheet

June 2010

## Social inclusion in practice

- Promote and support access to social networks.
- Resolve transport issues so that they do not prevent people from participating in the wider community.
- Build links with community projects, community centres and schools to increase levels of social contact between people from different generations.
- Identify, respect and use people's skills, including the skills of older people gained in previous employment.
- Give people ordinary opportunities to participate in the wider community through person-centred care planning.
- Involve people in service planning and ensure ideas and suggestions are acted upon.

### Ideas you could use

#### Start a project that connects people with the wider community

Think about how local schools and organisations might be able to work with you to make connections between the people who use your services and other members of the community.

#### Enable people who use services to contribute their skills

Invite people who use services to contribute their skills and experience to planning, developing and delivering projects in your service.

#### Create opportunities for people to make new friends

Look at ways you can support the people who use your service in making new friends to reduce isolation.

For example, set up a befriending scheme, or provide people with training to use email to keep in touch.

#### Give people who use services the chance to work

Enable people who use services to get work experience in a supportive environment – for example, on a voluntary basis. This can build confidence and even enable people to consider applying for paid employment.