

5.6 Life Stories Transitions in care

What	Transitions in care.
Purpose	To raise awareness of LGBT+ older people who may need to move out of their homes to receive long term care in a nursing or care home.
Target group	Teachers and trainers in vocational education and their students
Level	Level 2-3-4 in vocational education.
Execution	Extra support from the teacher might be necessary depending on the ability of the students to work independently
Sources:	Chaze, F., Giwa, S., Groenenberg, N., & Burns, B. (2019). Mostly White, Christian, and Straight: Informational and Institutional Erasure of LGBTQ and Ethnoculturally Diverse Older Adults on Long-Term Care Homes Websites . <i>Journal of Aging and Long-Term Care</i> , 2(1), 21. Mahieu, L., Cavolo, A., & Gastmans, C. (2019). How do community-dwelling LGBT people perceive sexuality in residential aged care? A systematic literature review. <i>Aging & mental health</i> , 23(5), 529-540. The whole of me: meeting the needs of older lesbians, gay men and bisexuals living in care homes and extra care housing.

While most older people want to spend their lives in their own homes this may not always be possible due to illness and disability. LGBT+ older people may be more prone to nursing or care home admission as they may not have the network of support that other people have. There is evidence to suggest that older people may be forced back into the closet when they are admitted to a nursing home because they fear that their needs will not be met or that they may experience homophobia if they are open about their sexuality (Chaze et al. 2019). Mahieu et al (2019) in a systematic review of the literature found that community dwelling LGBT adults perceived that admission to residential care might make them vulnerable to discrimination, and loss of sexual identity. In addition, they believed that their might be failure to recognise a same sex partner and experience a lack of privacy. Furthermore, the sexual and intimacy needs of LGBT+ older people may not be addressed in nursing or care homes because of heteronormative and cisgendered assumptions from staff.

Activity 1

Search for the websites of two (2) nursing homes in your area. Review the information available on the website. From the information on the website, list the features that you think make it LGBT friendly. Based on this information how likely are you to recommend this nursing home to a LGBT+ older person.

Activity 2

Visit the Social Care for Institute for Excellence website [here](#) and watch the video Rodger's story (you may need to register but registration is free). Rodger talks about the staff sending out the 'right signals' and feeling involved in his partner's care. What things did the staff do to make Rodger and his partner feel more comfortable in the hospice?

Activity 3

Your care home has been given some funds to make the common area more LGBT friendly. You have been asked to lead the initiative. How might you approach the task? What items would you consider buying?

Activity 4

Visit the Alzheimer's Society website [here](#). Read the information about choosing a care home for LGBT people with dementia. Thinking about your own area of work, what areas need respond to the guidance and what areas need to be improved?

Activity 5

Watch the following [video](#) about Creating a Care Facility Welcoming to LGBT Seniors. In your own words, summarise the best practice guidelines as outlined in the video for creating a care facility welcoming to LGBT+ older people.

Keep on learning

- Read the following document [Age-Friendly Inclusive Services: A Practical Guide to Creating Welcoming LGBT Organizations](#)