

A Cloud with a Silver Lining: positive feedback on student nurse placements in care homes, during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic .

As the COVID pandemic took hold in the spring, a plan was implemented which enabled student nurses to undertake paid placements in order to support the workforce, whilst retaining their student status. Many care homes **embraced** the students on these placements, often at short notice. The **feedback** received from both students and the care home staff from this time has been overwhelming. Not only has the tremendous experience and **opportunities available** to these students been highlighted, it has also opened up new possibilities post registration. The way care homes have allowed the students to **become part of their teams** in the midst of an extremely stressful and demanding time, ensured these students received a **supportive, valuable and educational placement experience, with person-centred care at the heart**. As Care Home Education Facilitator's (CHEFs), we are truly humbled by the feedback received and hope that placement opportunities not only continue, but increase. Without the support of our care home colleagues, these students would have missed out on gaining experience and **developing skills** in one of the most **rewarding environments**. So, **thank you**.

**Gillian Allan & Jenny Berry (Care Home Education Facilitators)**



“ I have grown in confidence and it's given me a new approach in my communication skills. I have considered every patient as part of my family, getting to know their past and hearing about their loved ones....”  
(Student Nurse)

“Terrified, sceptical, afraid, excited... I felt at ease meeting the nurses and ....my manager clearly put all the correct measures in place .... kept us up to date with guidelines.... I felt comforted that I could approach her with any queries or problems.... “  
(Student Nurse)

(Student Nurse)

“The most positive influence and inspiration for my nursing career was the dedication, vast knowledge and the high standards of care practised by my mentor ....the role of supportive mentors who went above and beyond to support my learning ...providing me with learning opportunities and materials has enhanced my experience .“  
( Student Nurse)

( Student Nurse)

“ ..she initially thought having her final placement in a care home was not ideal, as she questioned what she would learn ...however ... she was able to manage the care of a group of residents, and work as part of a team to assess, plan and implement person-centred care... building on organisation and leadership skills...the student described her placement as “having won a watch!”  
(CHEF feedback from student nurse)

(CHEF feedback from student nurse)

“Working within the home is rewarding and provides a sense of fulfilment. It is also a privilege to be able to build up a relationship with the residents, learning of their needs...and delivering person-centred care. I feel fortunate to be part of such a hard-working team whose goal is apparent to ensure the residents are content and feel supported and safe. “ (Student Nurse)

“...the support he received on the placement enabled him to build on his confidence ... he appreciated the opportunity to develop clinical and therapeutic skills...he said he had learned more than in any other placement and hoped to gain employment there once qualified.“  
(CHEF feedback from student nurse)

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