The introduction of iPads to Anchor’s care homes

Anchor is England’s largest not-for-profit housing and care provider. In 2013 we introduced iPads to more than half of our care homes. Anchor plans to introduce the iPad’s to all of our care homes by the end of 2014.

The iPad provides access to a wealth of activities and resources enabling us to tailor activity to customer’s own interests and life experiences. For example, one customer had lost the ability to enjoy their previous pastime of piano playing due to severe arthritis. He is now able to use the piano app on the iPad and has even gone on to play at a communal event in his care home.

Using the iPads is a great way of helping capture customer’s living stories, keeping customer’s in touch with long distance family members and improving communication with customer’s whose first language is not English.

Anchor’s flagship care home, West Hall in Surrey, was the first care home to receive the tablet devices, and formed part of a broader strategy to deliver tailored care and facilities for residents. The iPads offer a source of engagement for the less mobile, as well as an alternative source of entertainment.

Silver surfer Doreen Walden, 84, who is a permanent resident at Anchor’s Linwood care home in Surrey, explains just what a difference having iPad access has made to her: “I’d never seen a machine like this before we got one at Linwood. The thrill I get is amazing - it takes me back to my youth and when I used to save up and go to The Palladium with my husband. It’s a marvellous machine - I wish we had had one in my day. I envy anyone who owns one but at least I can use this one easily. I love to listen to Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Junior on the iPad and, when I’m with my friends here, we have a huge sing along - it’s great!”

Anchor Chief Executive Jane Ashcroft adds: “On introducing iPads to our care homes last year, we immediately received an overwhelming response. The benefits for residents of having modern technology at their fingertips are endless, providing stimulation and engagement, as well as keeping the mind active with puzzles, music and fact finding.

“While loneliness among the older generation is something we actively seek to combat across our Anchor residences, the iPads also offer an additional channel through which our residents can stay in close contact with family and friends who don’t live on site. The results of having the iPads have already proved remarkable too; we recently used an iPad in one of our care homes to help a customer speak face-to-face to her brother in Australia for the first time in 25 years.”
“Ultimately, facilitating access to modern technology in care homes is an ongoing and ever evolving process, which we intend to remain on top of for as long as it enriches the lives of our residents.”

**Links to Anchor’s iPad stories:** [http://www.anchor.org.uk/why-anchor/ipad-technology](http://www.anchor.org.uk/why-anchor/ipad-technology)
