



Requirements from Care Homes

We are really pleased to be able to offer Stories for the Soul in your care home. In order for the residents to gain the most from the sessions and to ensure everyone is safe please help us with these preparations.

NOW

- Please enter the session in your diary and let staff, residents and relatives know when it is taking place.
- Display the poster advertising the next session.
- Your Stories for the Soul storyteller will give you a ring a few days before your session. Let them know any relevant information about the group e.g. a favourite song, past time or a special birthday.
- Please let the storyteller know if you are unable to attend the session on the day and whom they should ask for on arrival.

ON THE DAY OF THE SESSION

- Try to make the Stories for the Soul session area free from noise and distractions, ensuring sufficient members of staff are there to supervise the session. The television and radio should be turned off.
- You have probably agreed with the storyteller beforehand about how the room will be set up so that people are in a circle and everyone can see and hear. It may be that you have agreed that the story will be told around a table.
- A staff member will be needed to assist with name labels for residents.
- Staff members may be required to help bring residents to the room.

DURING THE SESSION

- The support of staff to protect the space from distractions and intrusions is essential to the residents' participation and responsiveness. In order to do this we ask that a member of staff sits outside of the circle from where they can also respond to any need the residents may have. Other staff members and friends and relatives may wish to join the circle.
- Towards the end of the session there is a Feast time in which refreshments are shared. You will have already spoken to the Storyteller about how this is to be done, e.g. staff helping with giving out tea and biscuits, alongside the residents if appropriate. Please alert us to any food allergies that people may have.
- The session will not begin until there is a minimum of one carer/activities co-ordinator in the room, preferably two. It is essential that a member of staff remains in the room throughout the session, as the storyteller and volunteers are not insured to be left alone with the residents and it is against health and safety regulations.

AFTER THE SESSION

- In order to evaluate and improve the Stories for the Soul sessions we would like your feedback on how you feel the session went. You can tell us verbally at the end of the session, join in with our debrief meeting or fill in a questionnaire.

Thank you for your help and please do let us know if you have any questions or concerns.