



Why choose to do the GSF Care Homes Training Programme?

“Consistency and quality run like a theme through GSF. This work must not be diluted or dismantled. We highly recommend using GSF for Care Homes programme and disseminating it further.”

Martin Green CEO English Community Care Association

The GSFCH Training Programme:-

- Is the only fully accredited course that delivers both **quality improvement** plus **quality assurance**, with its full accreditation process learning to **quality recognition**.
- GSF in primary care is **nationally recognised, and endorsed** by all major policy groups and the GSF in Care Homes Programme though independent of it dovetails in well with GP practices so collaborative working is improved.
- This **well developed curriculum** has grown up from grass roots care home experience over several years and has been used extensively in over 600 homes, 50 workshops in 12 project areas of the country. It is now standardised with useful resources, learning aids and tools, with adaptations to meet the needs of local areas.
- **Reducing hospital admissions and increasing deaths at home** are key elements - a recent University of Birmingham study demonstrated improvement in quality of care, staff confidence plus significant reductions in crisis hospital admissions and hospital deaths (Phase 2 study showed 12% and 8% respectively, and Phase 3 results similar -due soon)
- It is an **evidence-based, well resourced, cost effective** programme and provides everything needed for real organisational systems change within the care homes. It is fully copyrighted and licensed to the National GSF Centre and Omega and is the only one to use specific tools developed by the GSF Team and the only one leading to GSFCH Accreditation.
- The **Accreditation process ‘Going for Gold’** is rigorous, independent and uses an internationally recognized process. It is supported by Help the Aged, and endorsed by all major care homes groups - NCA, NCF, ECCA, RNHA. Staff are supported to reach the high standards, and work within clear guidance of expectations to monitor progress and address gaps they work creatively and flexibly encouraging homes to take pride in their work
- The accredited homes will receive a **Quality Hallmark Award**, and included on database, plus national recognition for their achievement and Membership of a **Solid Gold Club** with numerous benefits that support continued progress.
- **System change and education** - GSF offers something different from pure educational teaching of staff - it is about changing the way the whole care home functions, and it is the home that is accredited if real improvement and embedding of good practice are demonstrated. With high staff turnover, this is important. But this also complements and encourages improved education and learning.
- It has been supported by the **DH End of Life Care programme** and Care Homes group, and includes use of other EOLC tools ie LCP / pathways for the dying and advance care planning tools eg ‘Thinking Ahead’ document or PPC.
- There are plans to evolve into accredited course for staff themselves as part of their ongoing career development- the GSFCH Coordinators Course.
- *We always wish to improve this further- we welcome your comments, feedback and suggestions.*

In a nutshell, we think this comprehensive training programme for care homes is most likely to help homes to aspire to and achieve top quality care, to deliver sustained improvements and will bring most benefit to residents, their families, staff and the wider community. It is good value and cost effective for both commissioners and for care homes, and can grow into being part of a national momentum of excellence, encouraging further growth and learning into the future.