

NEWS

LOCAL MAN'S PRAISE FOR 'EXEMPLARY' CARE

Home creates 'sense of normality' for mum

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A Carrickfergus man has praised the staff of a local nursing home for helping to create a "sense of normality" for residents with dementia.

Stephen Beckett's mother, Elizabeth 'Lily' Hynds, has been living at Carrickfergus Manor Private Nursing Home for a year.

The residential facility on Prince Andrew Way is managed by Runwood Homes, with staff specially trained in dementia care.

Mrs Hynds, who is 85, was diagnosed with the condition several years ago.

"After my stepfather died suddenly, as an only child I became my mother's carer," Mr Beckett said.

"A good part of my life was looking after my mum day-to-day.

"When the time came for her to go into a care home, I thought that was going to be difficult.

"I had this perception of care homes as my mum had worked in some of the ones in Carrickfergus when she was younger."

However, the local man has nothing but praise for the positive experience that Carrickfergus Manor has provided for



Stephen Beckett with his mother Lily Hinds. INCT15-724-CON

his mother.

"There's an awful lot of negative press about care homes, but there are positive stories out there too," he added.

"Carrickfergus Manor is exemplary as it sets the benchmark. The staff make an effort to try and create an environment where my mum, and the other residents, can continue to live as normal and independent a life as possible.

"They do go above and beyond."

The home employs two dedicated activities coordina-

"What they are doing is very innovative and they deserve praise for that" -

Stephen Beckett, Carrickfergus

tors, with special events such as sports days and discos.

In February, the home hosted its very first fashion show, with residents starring as models.

"There's something on usually every day; there have been craft classes, church services and someone coming in to play music," Mr Beckett added.

"The care goes beyond normal residential care; there's mental care there as well.

"What the home is doing is very innovative, and they deserve a bit of praise for that."

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