

50plus Nottinghamshire

LinkAge Plus

Community Computers

This project made internet equipped computers available to older people in residential care homes and extra care supported accommodation. Private and council residential homes bid for internet connected computers. The homes responded with suggestions about how older people might use IT, e.g. cheap calls to friends and relatives abroad using Skype, Wii units for interactive game play, indoor bowls and tennis as well as more conventional uses. The selected homes agreed to support residents on how to use the computers and have agreed to pay maintenance and running costs for at least two years.

Community Computers

Objective

- Limiting social isolation.
- Improving social inclusion.
- Port-hole to the outside world.
- Mental and physical stimulation.

Activity

- Computers distributed in a range of residential and day care settings.
- Residential homes had to bid for a computer. In the bid homes had to outline how they would use the computers.

Achievements against objectives

- 50 computers have been placed in residential and day care settings.

Wider achievements

- Built effective partnerships with private care homes.
- The council have decided to install a Nintendo Wii into every day care provision in the county.
- Created a debate on older people and IT that was previously not in existence.

Resources

- Cost of computers with internet connections and accessories.

Key lessons learned

- There is a great need for the computers.
- There is a much wider interest in computers than was originally anticipated. For example homes who have patients with Alzheimer's make effective use of video telephone calls.
- Computers can be configured for individuals/groups specific needs – a man with computer skills gave up using his computer when his eyesight deteriorated not knowing that the font size and background colour could be adjusted. He is now using his computer regularly again.

Further information

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Ref to website: www.notts50plus.co.uk

Related documents

See website above.

