

Lesley & Gordon's story

About the person

Lesley and her husband met at High School in Tynemouth but went their separate ways after leaving school. The pair had met up after their first marriages ended and have been together for 49 years. Lesley had a great career in Hadaway & Hadaway solicitors. Lesley was always very active and was the life and soul of any party, she wouldn't leave the house without a full face of makeup.

What was the situation?

Lesley was diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia just over two years ago, and Gordon became her main carer. The couples social worker recommended Cedar Grove Wellbeing Centre for Lesley to socialise and to give Gordon the respite he desperately needed, to continue to keep his wife at home. Lesley has settled into Cedar Grove and loves going.

What did Age UK North Tyneside do to make a difference?

All the staff at Cedar Grove are very well trained in dementia and treat Lesley with dignity and respect. Lesley now attends four full days a week, Gordon was amazed at how Lesley settled so quickly as she never wants to leave Gordon's side. The staff also support Gordon, with distraction techniques and support being Lesley's carer. Lesley loves getting her hair and nails done at Cedar Grove, as before the dementia increased Lesley was always immaculately turned out.

Gordon recently tried a week with Lesley in respite, and was constantly called with problems she was causing as she was distressed and unsettled. Gordon rang Janice, the Team leader at Cedar Grove, and she suggested going straight to the care home and bringing Lesley straight to Cedar Grove.

What outcomes were achieved?

When Gordon picked up Lesley, he was shocked as she was more confused than normal and very distressed. Janice assured the couple that she would be well cared for at Cedar Grove. Gordon then picked Lesley up six hours later and explains "I had my wife back". Janice said all the staff were encouraging Lesley to drink fluids as she was dehydrated. Her hair was washed and she had clean clothes on.

Feedback from the customer

Gordon explains "I am so grateful for the support all the staff give me at Cedar Grove Wellbeing Centre"

I can leave Lesley in the morning and have a full day recharging my batteries knowing she is safe and happy. Lesley would be in permanent residential care if I didn't have Cedar Grove. Thank you from Lesley and myself, we can enjoy being at home together."