

My wife [REDACTED] was first diagnosed with having dementia approximately 4 and a half years ago, at first she was not too bad and me and my step daughter were able to look after her but slowly over the years, she became worse.

To start with she just started to forget ie not remember where she had put things, why she had gone into a room. She didn't sleep on a night and seemed to wonder around in a daze. This went on for the first year but slowly got worse by the day.

In the second year, she was unable to make a meal/drink as she was unaware of the temperatures ie too hot, too cold. She was unable to use cutlery correctly so she ate most meals with her fingers, this meant that we were unable to go out for family meals as she could get embarrassed. She didn't realise when she needed to go to the toilet so she soiled herself. She would wonder out of the house and onto the main road (which was directly outside the garden) as she didn't see/hear and danger, this resulted in having to keep the doors locked at all times for her safety. Again, each day - she just kept getting worse.

The last 6 months of her being at home was very difficult due to her not being able to do anything for herself and she had to be cared for 24 hours a day. Every morning my step daughter came to visit to get her dressed/ready and feed her breakfast. Whilst she was doing this, I would quickly get myself ready. Once I was ready, my step daughter would go to work and I would look after her for the day. When my step daughter finished work, she would come back every day and look after her by giving her dinner, bathing her and getting her ready for bed.

By this stage she was totally dependable on us 24 hours a day. I tried to get home help from social services to give me a break and to assist but I was told that I would NOT get the level of care that she required to be looked after ie 24 hours a day. Looking after her was stressful and time consuming and sometimes a struggle which was putting a strain on the family.

At this stage, we started to look at putting her into residential care for her own safety. We looked into several residential care homes and found that the Green Residential Care Home seemed the best to look after my wife as they had the qualifications/facilities to care for people with Dementia. This was a very hard decision to make but I had to consider what was best for my wife.

My wife has been in The Green Residential Care Home for the past 2 and a half years, she settled in very well and seems to be happy there. The staff look after her and cater for everything that she requires and she has the 24 hour care that she needs. The staff are very caring, polite and professional in everything they do for my wife. If the care home was to close, I believe that it would be a great upheaval for her to be relocated to an alternative residential home. It would also be very difficult for me to visit her everyday, as I do now, depending on the location of the new residential home due to me being elderly, disabled and reliant on public transport/taxis.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

1st October 2016