

# GENERATIONS PROJECT

## PASTORAL-LINK ROLE DESCRIPTION

### Over-all Objectives

To enable Care Home Residents to be an active part of the Church.

- Maintaining relationship with their particular church - local or further away
- Creating links with a local church, where they do not already exist
- Encouraging relationship with other Christians within the Care Home
- Being sensitively open to others people exploring spiritual questions

### Key Roles

In order to fulfil these objectives the Pastoral-Link has two Key Roles

- **Pastoral Role**  
A personal/pastoral relationship with Care Home Residents is essential
- **A Knowledgeable Relationship with the Churches**  
Pastoral-Links will need to maintain an awareness of the different Christian Traditions represented within local churches along with an interest (as necessary) in the ongoing life and activity of each local church, in order to suggest and encourage shared activity and engagement. A key relationship with an appropriate person in each local church congregation will need to be maintained.

### Un-Packing the Task

- **Maintaining relationship with their particular church - local or further away**  
This is a two-way relationship. Churches will need encouraging to engage with their folk in Care Homes in ways other than pastoral care.  
Clergy & other pastoral visits, worship in their 'style', church magazine - ensuring it is received (It may need to be read aloud), audio/video worship.  
Activities shared - prayer circle/group, reflections/interviews for magazine, practical tasks, Bible reading,  
Awareness raising within the church congregation  
Where the church is further away the role will be more one of communication
- **Creating links with a local church, where they do not already exist**  
Where a resident is not near their own church, but would like to make a link the role would include alerting the particular church of the need so that some personal link can be established. Also, to take some initiative for the resident with information about the church - obtaining a magazine etc.
- **Encouraging relationship with other Christians within the Care Home**  
As well as relating Christian residents to church congregations, part of the role is to enable and be a focus for relationships between Christian residents. Such events as worship, Bible reading, themed discussion, or practical tasks relating to a local congregation, might be shared and would hopefully involve others from outside the Care Home, building Christian community.
- **Being sensitively open to others exploring spiritual questions**  
The Church needs to be alongside those exploring spiritual questions, but cannot do this forcefully. Opportunity will arise out of simple friendly contact and conversation, invitations to share in Church activity within the Care Home etc.  
A particular openness to 'end of life' concerns will be appropriate.