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# Your Views

## Residents' care is paramount

Scarborough

AS the manager of a local care home for elderly people with dementia I feel obliged to respond to recent stories in the national media concerning the lack of training for carers.

I should point out that the facts quoted in these stories have been plucked from a much wider survey and, while in some cases they may be true, I would like to reassure your readers that they are in no way representative of all homes.

At Scarborough Lodge the safety and comfort of our residents is paramount and we go way beyond existing Government standards for the training of staff. Every carer at Orchard Care Homes undergoes a compulsory NVQ course in dementia awareness, regardless of whether they are working in a residential or an EMI (elderly mentally infirm) home.

We do this because we feel that by equipping our teams with these skills from the outset we are much better placed to recognise the onset of dementia earlier and therefore better able to cope with the increasing demands of this debilitating condition.

There is too much surrounding our industry that focuses purely on the negative, and good, conscientious providers are often tarred by the same brush as those who do not care so much.

Placing someone in care is already one of the toughest decisions most of us ever have to make and these types of story only make it harder.

My advice to anyone with a loved one who needs care is don't be panicked, go and see for yourself and talk to people. Shop around and ask questions, the staff at your local homes should be only too happy to help with any queries or concerns you may have. That is the best way you can be sure of finding the highest standards of care in the area

**Charlotte Thompson**

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