

“Why aren’t care home gardens more actively used?”

A half day Workshop for Garden Designers, Landscape Architects and other Outdoor Space Specialists to explore the reasons why the gardens around care settings, particularly for people living with dementia, are not used to their full potential and a new approach to working effectively with Care clients.

Presented by: Debbie Carroll, MBALI, Director, Step Change Design Ltd.

Half Day Workshop timings:

Morning workshop: 9.30am – 1.00pm, arrive from 9.00am, or

Afternoon workshop: 1.30pm – 5.00pm, arrive from 1.00pm

About Step Change Design

Debbie Carroll is a Garden Designer with more than 20 years’ experience who together with Mark Rendell undertake a large-scale research project into why gardens in care settings, particularly for residents living with dementia, were not more actively used, even when they follow the latest design guidance. This study led to the formation of Step Change Design in 2014 and them co-authoring the ‘Why don’t we go into the garden?’ series of books and tools.

They identified the pivotal role of organisational culture in the engagement of the outside space and how this can be interpreted to better assist care settings when providing design and other specialist outside support. Their unique *Care Culture Map*, and designer focused *Banding tool* based on it, are tools to help identify the settings current practices, what hinders engagement outside and how this may influence any new garden usage. Their work informs new data and approaches to delivering design support they call ‘Relationship-Centred Design’.

Debbie continues the work of Step Change Design sharing the findings both within the Care and Design sectors to enable residents living in care settings to be able to engage with the garden as and when they choose.

The Workshop will:

1. Describe the research journey that involved crossing the threshold back into the care home settings to find the answer to their original question, “*Why aren’t care home gardens more actively used?*”. Exploring through a range of stories and anecdotes the route to the study findings.
2. Shares the key findings of the research project and the impact this has for designers. This is explored through a number of ‘**hidden dangers**’ that can hinder active engagement of future gardens if not addressed and to avoid inadvertently adding in new barriers to stepping outside.
3. Produce a handy and easy-to-use **Checklist** that aims to reduce gimmicks in the garden, infantilising approaches with residents and the risk of turning the outside space into a fixed and unadaptable space.
4. Explores the role of Care Culture and how the need for culture change may be facilitated using the practical and diagnostic tool, **The Care Culture Map**, and the Designer focused **Care Culture Banding tool**.
5. Explains their approach to working with care clients and the key responsibilities of a ‘**Relationship-Centred Design**’. Share 5 key scenarios and questions to keep in mind when working with care settings and how this approach impacts on workflows in practice.

Who should attend?

Garden Designers, Landscape Architects and Outside Space Specialists with an interest in, or existing practice, providing design support for care homes and other health and care settings, particularly for residents living with dementia.

What the Workshop will not cover:

While this session may touch on some specific elements of current design guidance for dementia, it will primarily focus on the findings from the major research study and the role of the organisation on creating actively used gardens. This session will help participants to work more effectively with their current and future care sector clients through

'Relationship-Centred Design'. This emphasises the need to support care setting clients on a culture change journey towards increasingly person-centred care practices. For more information about this new approach and the research findings, check out the 'research' page on the website: www.stepchange-design.co.uk/our-research/

What to bring: Notepaper and pen, or laptop / tablet and an inquiring mind

What is provided: A Certificate of Attendance, A handout summarising the key principles of 'Relationship-Centred Design' and a tool to sense check new elements in gardens produced by Step Change Design Ltd.

Workshop Fees

In-house event at your location: £750* per half day workshop
(Includes one trainer, maximum 15 delegates)

**plus venue costs, travel and accommodation, where applicable. Fee fixed until April 2026. A detailed quote will be provided for your specific location. Following acceptance of a booking this will be invoiced prior to the event.*

Please note: No refund will be given for cancellations. Full refunds will be given should the event have to be cancelled for any reason by Step Change Design Ltd. No tickets are sent out for this event. Please note: Step Change Design Ltd is not VAT registered.

Payment is required prior to the workshop date.

Publication discounts

Each delegate attending this workshop will be entitled to a discount on Step Change Design's publications. A discount code will be issued during the workshop. The discount will be valid for 1 year from the workshop date.

For further information about the Workshop, and to book your place(s), please contact us at: debbie@stepchange-design.co.uk

Telephone Debbie on: 02380 685193 / 07821 546950

Or visit our website for more information: www.stepchange-design.co.uk