



Karen Edwards, Nurse Manager



Phoenix Clinic - Newtownards

My name is Karen Edwards and I am the Nurse Manager of Phoenix Clinic in Newtownards. I want to use this opportunity to share a good news story from the Nursing Home sector, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Myself and my other Nurse Manager colleagues working in the Independent Sector love and are committed to our roles in the Nursing Homes we manage. Phoenix Clinic is unique in NI as it is the only nursing home providing specialised care for the younger person with a physical disability (age 18 years upwards). Visit our [website](#) to find out more about the care we provide and our facilities.

I am so proud of my team particularly during the past few weeks and we thank God every day that we have so far managed to keep the virus out of our home. Like other homes we closed the unit to visitors early on in the pandemic, we practice good infection control measures, including enhanced cleaning of the environment, frequent hand washing, appropriate use of PPE etc. I believe we have coped well because of the great team spirit, love, dedication and compassion we show to the residents and each other.

I meet with the staff each day at 2pm so I can give them any updates, do teaching sessions and most importantly we use it to check in with each other on how we are feeling and chat about any fears or anxieties we might have.

An essential aspect of the work in our Home is the staff spending time with the residents helping to brighten their days through this difficult time when they are missing their loved ones. This is demonstrated on our Facebook page ([Residents of Phoenix Clinic](#)). The residents are our extended family and we do our best to keep everyone safe and well.

It is important that people don't see Nursing Homes as places where people are forgotten about or go to die but they are places where those who can no longer manage at home independently can go and get the help and support they need. We enable our residents to maintain a good quality of life for as long as possible and they feel loved and cared for.

The photo above was taken by a neighbour at the beginning of May, he captured the rainbow over our home and that image is giving us all hope that we will get through these difficult times together.

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