

# The Avery SENSES Tool

Understanding and supporting residents is integral to the excellent service Avery provides residents, whether they have cognitive difficulties or not.

A large part of that is assessing care needs regularly. However, residents with neurological difficulties may not be able to describe or verbalise their care home experience. Avery have a variety of tools which aim to break down barriers when it comes to issues with communication and dementia, overall improving the level of care provided.

Care home assessment tools such as **SENSES** give staff an insight into some of the experiences a resident may be exposed to, allowing for adaptations and adjustments.

So how does the SENSES tool work?

## LET'S FIND OUT

# S



## See

Observers will consider what is going on in the immediate area, whether staff are visible and what they are doing. It takes into consideration exactly what residents can **see**.



## Expressions

# E

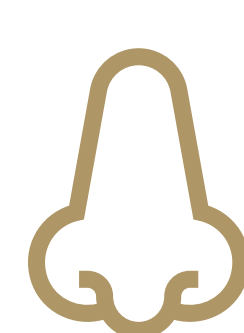
What sort of emotional reactions are residents displaying? Are they bored or disinterested or content and happy? This element reflects on the **emotions** and **expressions** of residents with cognitive difficulties.

# N



## Noise

Is the TV or radio at an acceptable level or are they overpowering? Are the programmes appropriate to those viewing or listening? Can staff be heard using raised voices? **Noises** can affect residents in many ways, especially those unable to verbalise concerns.

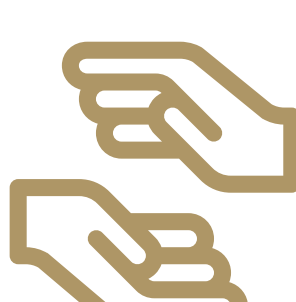


## Scents

# S

Are there pleasant scents or smells in the environment? If the observer is there at a mealtime, does the food smell appetising? Are the **smells** and **scents** in the care home inviting and comforting?

# E



## Environment

Is the **environment** object rich, for instance are there interesting items for residents to engage with? Does the area feel emotionally warm and welcoming?



## Speaking

# S

Are residents engaging with each other, and are staff engaging with residents? What kinds of things those in the immediate surrounding **speaking** about?

Could these have a positive or negative effect on those who have issues with communication and dementia or other cognitive difficulties?

Through careful use of the qualitative **SENSES** tool, staff assessing care needs can adjust and adapt the care services required for individual residents, or the environment they are living in, which could improve overall comfort, happiness, and quality of life, in particular for residents with cognitive difficulties who may be unable to verbalise concerns.



The SENSES tool is used in conjunction with a variety of other audits and care home assessments to ensure each resident is thoroughly supported and is received the dignified services they require.

