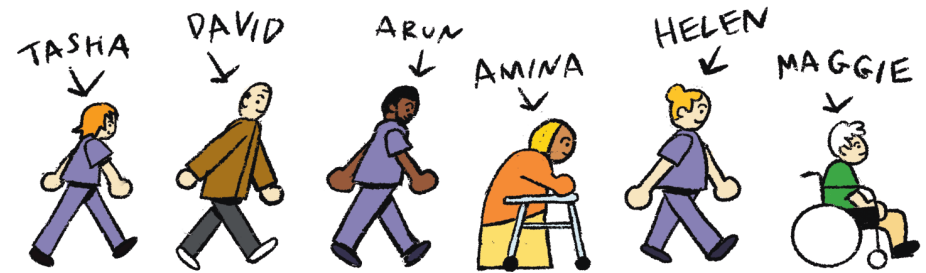


# CHOICE & COMPASSION

dementia care stories



Step inside a care home, where every day is about respecting choices. Join David, who loves his walks, Amina, who stands by her beliefs, and Maggie, whose love for sweet treats still shines through.

This comic shows how care homes can support people living with dementia with their independence and dignity, even when decisions seem tricky. Discover the power of care that truly puts people first and protects their rights.



#### Researchers

Emily Fisher  
Louis Stokes  
Bryony Waters-Harvey  
Alys Wyn Griffiths

**Illustrations**  
Skaï Campbell

**Editor**  
Gabi Putnoki



This comic was created as part of the Care in Comics Project at the University of Sheffield, led by the Centre for International Research on Care, Labour and Equalities (CIRCLE). <https://sheffield.ac.uk/circle/care-comics>

The comic is based on findings from two NIHR-funded studies: ENACT (Evaluating staff training and the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act in care homes for older adults - Award ID: NIHR152800) and FREEDEM (Reframing 'wandering' as a meaningful activity using realist synthesis and qualitative exploration - Award ID: NIHR205173).



respecting dignity, independence,  
and rights in dementia care



 University of  
Sheffield | CIRCLE

**NIHR** | National Institute for  
Health and Care Research





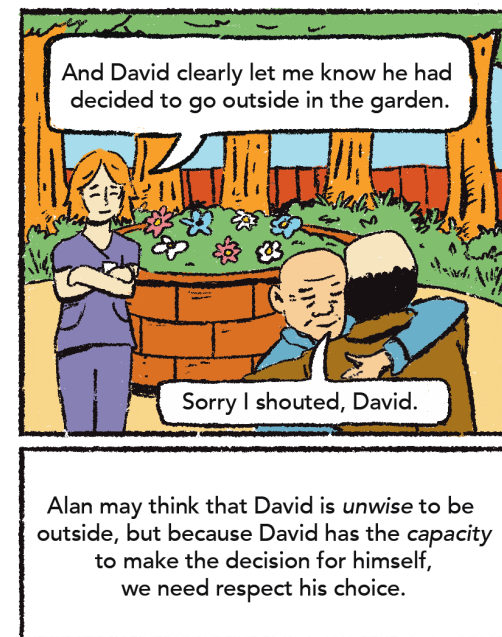
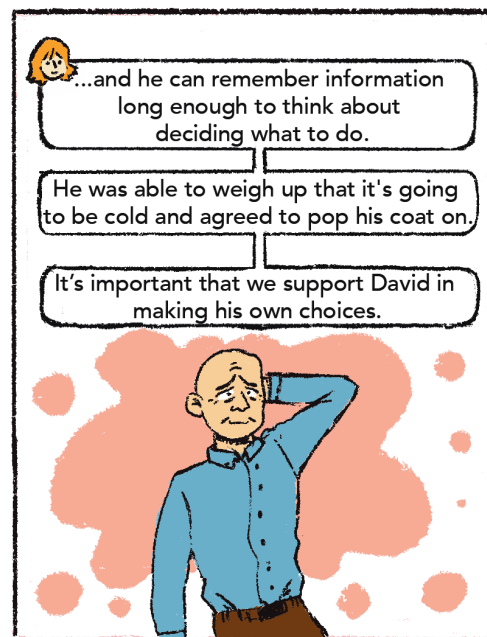
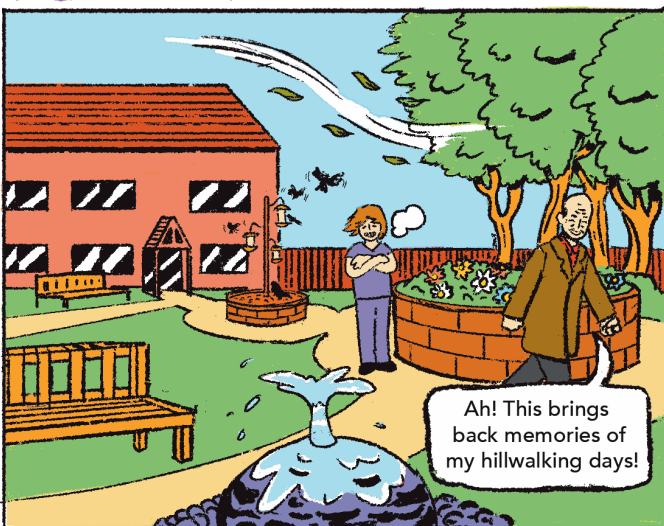
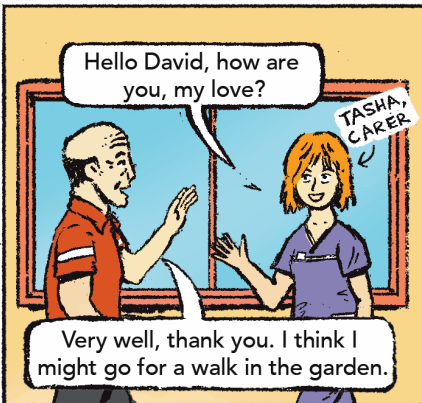
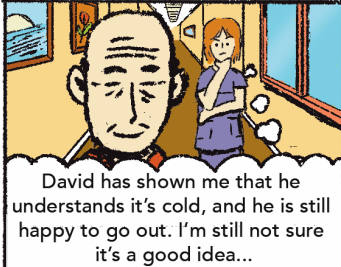
# DAVID



David has Alzheimer's disease and he's been living in the care home for a few months.

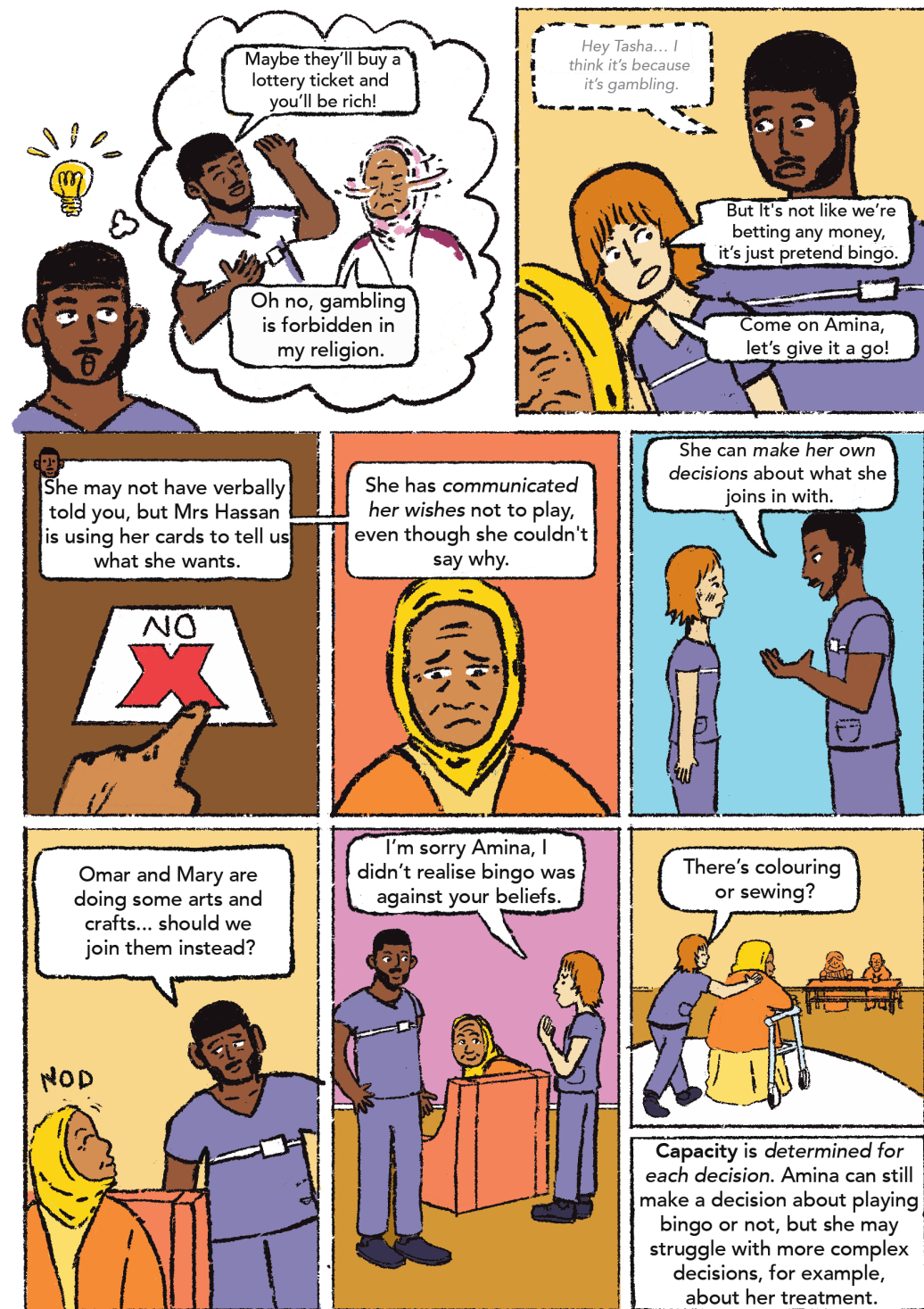


Tasha checks that David understands what she is saying and waits for him to make his own decision.





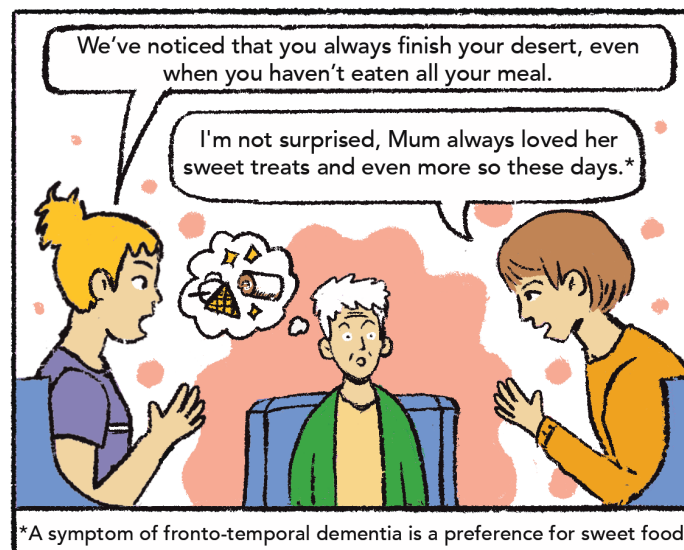
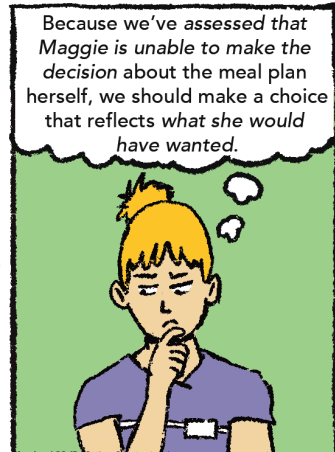
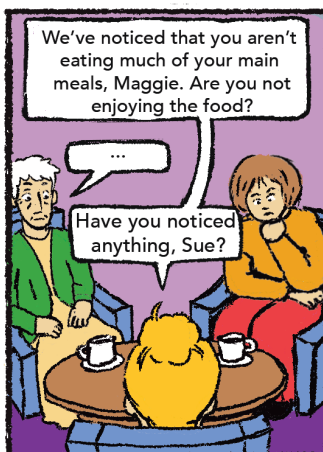
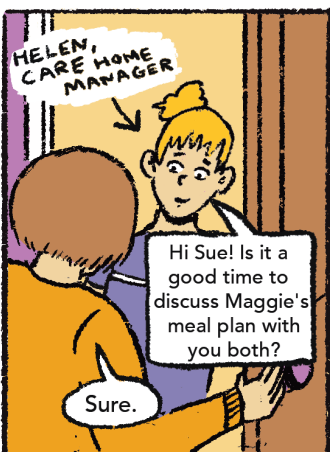
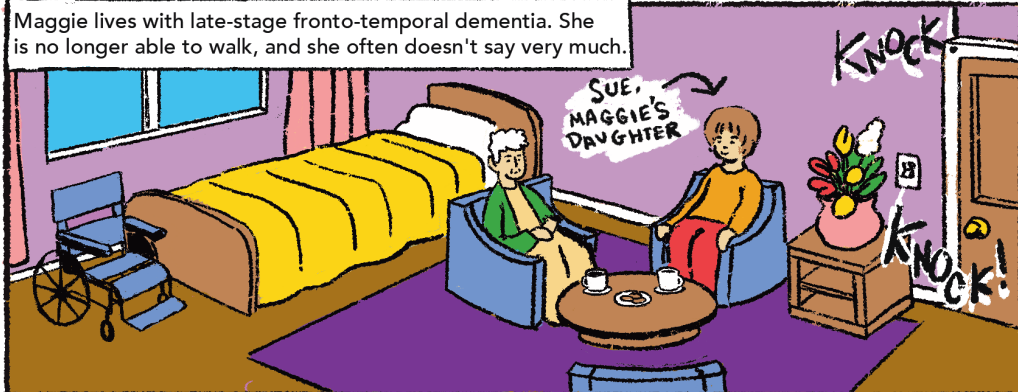
# AMINA



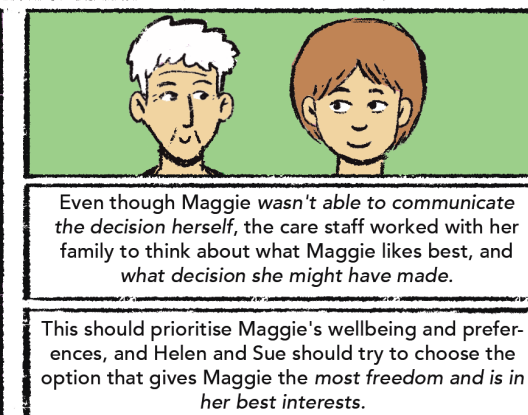
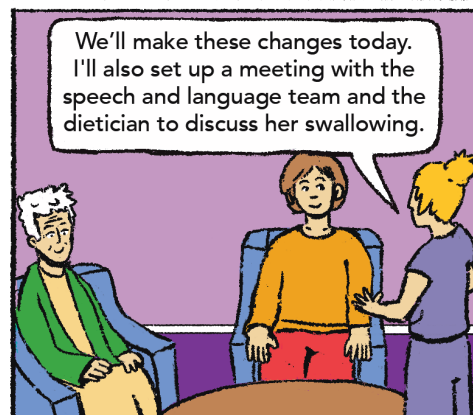


# MAGGIE

Maggie lives with late-stage fronto-temporal dementia. She is no longer able to walk, and she often doesn't say very much.



\*A symptom of fronto-temporal dementia is a preference for sweet foods.



## CAPACITY

means being able to understand and make decisions. Some key points:

- Having dementia doesn't mean someone can't decide for themselves - we always start by assuming they can.
- Before deciding that someone lacks capacity, we must support them, for example, by simplifying, using pictures, or allowing more time.
- People have the right to make choices that others might consider unwise or unconventional, even if it differs from what others might recommend.
- If someone lacks the capacity to make a specific decision, actions taken on their behalf must prioritise their best interests by thinking about their feelings, beliefs and values.
- When deciding for someone else, choose the option that respects their rights and freedom the most.