

Shen's story: End of life, Older people



- ◆ Shen is 91 and lives in Telford, in a small purpose built annexe on the ground floor of his daughter's house. His radiologist daughter, Chun, brought him over from China 6 years ago following the death of her mother. Shen speaks very little English and can only converse with Chun, as her husband and children speak only English.
- ◆ Shortly after Shen came to England, his daughter noticed he was becoming increasingly forgetful and often confused about where he was. Having refused to go to see a GP, Shen then had a nasty fall down the stairs which took him to Birmingham hospital. There, Chun urged doctors to test Shen for his memory loss problems, and he was diagnosed with Dementia with Lewy bodies.
- ◆ Over the last 5 years, Shen's physical and mental state has worsened rapidly. He is now permanently in a wheelchair and has trouble sleeping. More recently he has been experiencing hallucinations and delusions. Chun has tried to urge her father that these are not real, but has realised with research that this is not the way forward. Shen, now at the end of his life, needs round the clock care, which Chun feels only she can provide due to the language barrier.
- ◆ Unfortunately Chun is the key breadwinner in the family and giving up her job is going to have a huge impact on her family's finances. However she simply refuses to let her father feel more isolated and alone than he already does, and subsequently leaves her job to look after her father in his final days.