What does the Commissioner mean by a Dementia Champion?

A dementia champion is a vehicle for promoting care home ownership of good practice in the quality of life and care of older people living with dementia in care homes.

The Commissioner’s review found that where individuals or teams were supported to understand, engage and champion the rights and lived experiences of people with dementia: that residents were happier, ‘challenging’ behaviour reduced and staff reported higher levels of satisfaction in their work. Most importantly, these homes were found to deliver great outcomes for all residents.

The Commissioner is not wedded to a specific way of implementing a dementia champion or programme within care homes but she will want to see what action  you have or will take to ensure the delivery and ongoing  improvement of quality of life and care outcomes for older people living with dementia and emotional frailty . This could be through the support of an external or internal change programme or supporting a nominated, enthusiastic and motivated individual who you will empower to drive organisational change, be a model of good practice and challenge poor care outcomes.