

A friendly, fluffy giant lighting up lives

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Photo: Ray Ryan

IT'S hard to see Lola's eyes behind the great wall of fluff but you can't miss the instant sparkle that ignites in the eyes of elderly residents when this adorable giant arrives to rest her paw on their lap.

Lola and her owner Orla Cahill bring people to a standstill wherever they arrive – both owner and dog have spellbinding smiles that radiate friendship and compassion. It has only been a few months since they began weekly visits to those living and working at Central Park Nursing Home in Clonberne, but already they are part of the family that looks forward to them coming to visit.

The beautifully groomed Old English Sheepdog has had an overwhelmingly calming effect on many residents while she makes others childishly giddy with excitement the minute her gentle panting is heard along the corridor.

Four-year-old Lola doesn't just look like the Dulux dog we see on the TV and paint brochure – that is Lola and when she isn't enjoying sneaky treats from the nursing home residents during pet therapy visits, she is the star of marketing campaigns for the well-known paint brand working at in-store visits or on TV and advertising campaigns.