



LOTHIAN DEMENTIA PROJECT

Facing Dementia Together: Post Diagnostic Support

October 2009 Report

The project continues its emphasis on supporting the Dementia Collaborative, and a full day was spent with three DSDC staff at the National meeting of the Mental Health Collaborative at the Golden Jubilee Hospital.

Professor Andrews met with Margot Mason and Janet Corbett to support their work in assessing the effectiveness of life story work, which has been funded by the Collaborative.

The progress of the project and planning for next year was the topic of meetings with Katie McWilliam and Alex McMahan.

Professor Andrews spent a morning working alongside nursing staff on an inpatient ward for older people, giving support and advice.

Three acute sector accident and emergency staff took part in a three day programme on making a dementia friendly environment. This programme outlined the nature of dementia, common impairments, and the research base of architecture and design responses. It also trained the staff in the use of the design audit tool, which they can use to audit their front door environment.

Professor Andrews made a presentation at the national conference on younger people with dementia on the Lothian Project.

This month was busy for events and presentations. One person came for facilitator training for the Best Practice project. This will enable them to take forward the development of up to 8 unqualified staff to improve the culture of care in their work setting through a six month programme, and we will assess their development. Seventeen Lothian staff took part in the Intermediate Care Conference at Stirling, where a range of presentations were given on subjects relating to the care of people in a range of setting including issues of Delirium in the acute hospital. Ten people from Edinburgh council came to an event on managing behaviour that challenges. There is an increasing understanding that this behaviour is often a product of the behaviour of the staff and the environment, rather than being a symptom of dementia itself. There was a West Lothian stakeholders meeting on October 4th and fifteen staff from City of Edinburgh Council visited the design and technology suite and had a short talk on how to support people with dementia. On October 15th around 15 people came from VOCAL.

In addition planning has been taking place for events later in the year and early next year.

This report is part of an ongoing project and comments and responses are welcome. It will be placed on the website at www.dementia.stir.ac.uk and comments can be posted there or sent to june.andrews@stir.ac.uk or jemma.galbraith@stir.ac.uk

Professor June Andrews
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