



LOTHIAN DEMENTIA PROJECT

Facing Dementia Together: Post Diagnostic Support

June/July 2009 Report

June was busy, including the good practice event on June 25th, but July has been quiet due to the holiday season.

Two education events for acute sector charge nurses took place at Liberton Hospital, based on the questionnaire that was circulated to acute sector staff. Written material has been posted to them in advance of their two conferences in the month of June.

The main focus for June was the good practice conference. This took place at Stirling and over 100 staff attended from Lothian, including health and social care staff from the health, social care and private sector. They heard about significant improvements that have already taken place, and took part in a prioritisation exercise for change ideas that have arisen already in the project. In addition to six presentations and a workshop, there were accompanied tours of the design and technology suite and the dementia friendly garden, and delegates were encouraged to visit and enrol for the Dementia Library and sign up for monthly emailings of information.

Two groups of occupational therapists, one from City of Edinburgh Council and one from NHS took part in study days including visiting the design and technology suite and lectures from dementia centre staff. Around 18 staff in total. 20 people came from Edinburgh from health and social care staff and received book bags and information, in addition to the accompanied tours.

In addition more than twenty staff have made their own way to the Iris Murdoch Building and did independent tours with the electronic audio handsets and received complementary publications. Also VOCAL brought a group of 20 carers for a similar visit. The programme provided transport for this, in addition to the educational experience.

Erskine Care Home, the Royal Victoria and the Royal Edinburgh each have staff undertaking the Best Practice programme which trains them to be facilitators for learning for unqualified staff, and provides them with learning materials and support.

Ten Lothian acute sector nurses attended the launch of the new materials to support people with dementia in the general hospital, and each received a pack including written material, DVDs and a CD rom to take back to their work place.

A study day launching materials for staff working with people with a learning disability and dementia included 7 Lothian staff, and they received materials to take away. And people from Lothian came to an open day at the Iris Murdoch Building.

During this time the clinical lead for the mental health collaborative, Dr John Gordon, was appointed and Professor Andrews met with him and with Kerrie Buhagier to discuss how the two projects can work together. Assistance was given to allow Dr Gordon to send a book "Ten Questions to Consider; A guide for General Practitioners to assist in assist in managing patients with dementia" along with a letter raising awareness and offering help. Already the DSDC has had health centre queries asking about how to access further materials. Also each community nursing team in Lothian has been sent a letter and a copy of the CD rom "Frank's Friday" to raise awareness and provide information about caring for people with dementia in the community.

There have been briefings for the Lothian NHS team including Alex McMahon, Katie McWilliam and other colleagues including Rona Laskowski and Catherin Smythe. Professor Andrews visited staff and clinical areas in Liberton Hospital to offer advice on management of disturbing behaviour.

The continued work on supporting the HEAT target has been informed by meetings with Ruth Glassborow and David McLay, the national leads for these the mental health collaborative.

This is a bimonthly report which will be posted on the website, and will be circulated on request.

Professor June Andrews (june.andrews@stir.ac.uk) or Jemma Galbraith (jemma.galbraith@stir.ac.uk) are happy to take any queries.

Professor June Andrews
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