Much of the recent policy and strategy focus has been on the need to consider the design and delivery of older peoples care and services. This has included as one of the key priority areas for the NHS Fife Improvement Plan “Getting Better in Fife” and work across the Board area has supported an improved delivery of care and an enhanced care experience.

Alzheimer Scotland, working in partnership with the Scottish Government, NHS Education for Scotland and the Scottish Social Services Council, have been involved in the development of a number of resources and initiatives to promote and improve the experience for people with dementia, their families and carers in line with the National Dementia Strategies and Standards of Care for People with Dementia in Scotland.

Alzheimer Scotland and the Scottish Government have supported funding for an Alzheimer Scotland Dementia Nurse in NHS Fife, initially for two years and subsequently an additional year 2014/15, to support this work in the acute hospital setting. This funding stream has enabled the creation of a Dementia Team in NHS Fife to lead and drive the Acute Services Division activity.

The identification of this team has enabled an increased focus on care for people with dementia and their families and carers. This focus has provided a significant contribution to the implementation of the Dementia Strategy and Standards across the Acute Services Division and linking with a wide range of partners and supporting agencies. The publication of the second national dementia strategy highlights 10 Care Actions for hospital settings and work is underway implementing the work plan developed through the Acute Services Division Dementia Coordinating Group to address these ten care actions. A summary of the range of work carried out by NHS Fife in the last 12 months is outlined in the features below.

The power of music

Playlist for Life is a charity established by Sally Magnusson, journalist and television presenter. Playlist for Life encourages families and caregivers of a person with dementia to create a playlist of uniquely meaningful music on an iPod or similar at any time of the day or night. It is effective both at home and in residential care, at an early stage of the condition and later on. There is mounting evidence that if people with dementia are offered frequent access to the music in which their past experiences and memories are embedded, it can improve their present mood, their awareness, their ability to understand and think and their sense of identity and independence. Music that is merely familiar in a general way, although pleasurable, is not likely to be so effective. A successful application was made by the Dementia Team to the Friends of Queen Margaret Hospital for money to support the introduction of Playlist for Life in the acute hospital setting. The Alzheimer Scotland Professional Development Nurse has liaised with Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) who is working with the charity to explore the use of Playlist. At this time the use of Playlist in the acute setting has not been evaluated so the NHS Fife Dementia Team will be working with GCU and Playlist for Life to research the implementation of Playlist in the acute care setting. This project is due to start later this month and promises to be an exciting development for dementia care in the acute setting.

It’s all about the environment

Environmental audits have been undertaken using the Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) audit tool of all ward/department areas with a dementia population. Champions on Involving Patients in dementia care have been recruited and this work was utilised as a good tool for the development of dementia care. The audit tool was also used by the newly established Dementia Champions Coordinating Group that was the lead group of the healthcare team. The evaluation showed that the two roles have been important catalysts in driving improvements in dementia care across Scotland.

A development day was held for all NHS Fife Dementia Champions in January 2014. The purpose of the day was to outline the strategic direction for dementia care both locally and nationally, to identify local activity and agree improvement needs, to identify and agree a collaboration and individual work plan, and to establish a format for dementia champions network meetings. Each champion in the Acute Services has a 3 point action plan:

• Enabled the use of Knowing To Me
• Undertake a dementia environment audit and set out on findings and recommendations
• Local action identified by the champion

Each champion provides a progress report on their action plan every 2 months. To support delivery of this action plan each champion is given 3 hours supervised time per month.

A dementia champions network meeting is held monthly. Each meeting has a topic theme followed by updates from champions on their actions plans. Topics covered recently include smoking and dementia, drugs used in dementia, Alzheimer Scotland Local Resource Centre, NHS Fife Dementia Post Diagnostic Support Service, vision loss in dementia and Fife Cancer Centre.

Attendance at network meetings, submission of progress reports and the taking of protected time is monitored. This information is shared with the ADN, AHP and CMAX.

NHS Fife Dementia Champions Network was runner up at Scotland’s National Dementia Awards in September 2014 under the category of Best Acute Care Initiative.

We are the champions!

NHS Fife currently has 23 dementia champions in the Acute Services. There are a further 6 champions in the CHP areas, 2 champions in social services and 1 champion in the Scottish Ambulance Service. A further cohort of learning is due to commence in April 2015 and NHS Fife has been allocated 10 provisional places. Desire for these places is high and recruitment is underway.

In June 2014 an independent evaluation was undertaken of the impact of Dementia Champions and the Alzheimer Scotland Dementia Nurse Consulted on Involving Patients in dementia care in acute hospital settings. NHS Fife was selected as a study site one of the three. The evaluation was conducted by the Centre for Research and Postgraduate Education at The University of the West of Scotland. This study involves evaluating the contributions of the champions to the dementia care of the people who live in care settings. The findings from the evaluation will help us to understand the impact of Dementia Champions across the acute hospital services.

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Planning for the future

1. NHS Fife will shortly be recruiting an Alzheimer Scotland Nurse Consultant for Dementia. This role will support all inpatient settings across NHS Fife, excluding mental health and learning disability.

2. The Focus on Dementia programme have asked each Health Board to identify one of the 10 Care Actions to begin testing on improvement actions. In consultation with the medicine for the elderly wards action care it has been selected Work with equal partners with families, friends and carers to explore potential models of care. This stage of this project will be testing the introduction of the Partners In Care scheme in Ward 15, Victoria Hospital. This will commence in January 2015.

3. NHS Fife Acute Services will commence reporting to the Government on the progress against the 10 Care Actions.

A team approach to improving AWI

A recent DPAN report highlighted that NHS Fife Acute Services must ensure that the AWI Act is fully and appropriately implemented, including discussion with the patient and family.

The AWI audit undertaken by the dementia team between January – March 2014 found that the 547 certificate and treatment plans were not being accurately completed.

The dementia team contributed to a group established by the Associate Medical Director to lead improvements in complying with the AWI legislation. An output of this work has been a new Capacity Document that includes an assessment of capacity, PDA details, 547 certificate and treatment plans. The initial pilot of the document was successful and the document was launched across NHS Fife Acute Services on 7th September 2014. The form is now being rolled out across CHP areas in Fife.

The AWI audit tool has been revised to reflect the new form and the audit program is carried out by clinical effectiveness. Further AWI audits have been carried out and performance in the completion of relevant documentation is broadly improving.

Work on the development of this new Capacity Document has been shared nationally, via a Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) webinar in November 2014.

AWI education – all staff have been offered AWI training and a resource based on NRES resource ‘Think Capacity Think Consent’ – 304 people completed the resource between June 2013-November 2014. Face to face AWI training sessions continue to be held to supplement the LearnPro resources. Dates are set through to June 2015.

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