Building bridges and juggling priorities: working towards dementia-friendlier practices and services in Edinburgh.

Key areas of progress in 2014

Colin MacDonald, Alzheimer Scotland Nurse Consultant

1. Acute hospital:
I continue to have a lead role in the Delivering Better Care Hub – with a focus on improving the experience and outcomes of vulnerable patients (including dementia). Recent work and improvements include:

- Supporting Dementia champions (good practice events)
- Supporting Bridging team
- Getting To Know Me form
- Delirium screening tool
- Improved signage
- Education and training.

2. Providing education and training
Key professional groups and areas include:

- A further eight Primary care practices (38 GPs; 36 DNs; 15 reception staff; and 10 AHPs)
- Acute hospital staff
- Care home staff
- Post graduate nurses
- Health and social care students (school leavers).

3. Edinburgh Behaviour Support Service (EBSS)
The Edinburgh Behaviour Support service (EBSS) provides a holistic and multidisciplinary approach for people with dementia with behavioural manifestations of need. I have been involved in the development of this team from the start, and over the past 12 months have provided my own clinical input.

A recent independent evaluation has highlighted the following positive outcomes:

- Significant decreases in the stress and distress of people with dementia and their carers
- Reduction in admissions to mental health inpatient facilities (or similar long term care settings)
- Reduction in the use of antipsychotic medications
- Increased satisfaction and confidence expressed from managers and staff of care homes with the EBSS service.

4. Working towards a dementia-friendly Edinburgh
Collaborative working with Edinburgh City Council, Alzheimer Scotland and other partners:

- Six post diagnostic link workers now in place for Edinburgh
- Dementia awareness campaign
- Working with businesses and organisations to make Edinburgh more dementia-friendly (e.g. Lothian buses, supermarkets, hotels, restaurants and chemists, etc)
- Integrated support for dementia model (8 pillars).

5. Presentations at:

- Dementia Champions Graduation day (Jan 2014)
- Sharing Good practice Seminars (Feb and June 2014)
- Scottish Caring and Dementia Congress (Apr 2014)
- Geriatric Medicine Seminar (Sept 2014).