Dementia
CARE ACTIONS

Identify a leadership structure to drive and monitor improvements

The NHS Western Isles’ Nurse Director is the Executive Lead for dementia in the Western Isles, as well as Chair of the Western Isles Dementia Steering Group.

The Western Isles Dementia Steering Group is the team of people across local statutory and voluntary organisations that leads and drives forward a multi-agency group which drives improvements in dementia service provision in the Western Isles.

Develop and embed person centred assessment and care planning

Western Isles Dementia Champions have regular meetings, and are able to invite the Nurse Director to attend.

In order to drive improvements, protected time for the champions is being addressed. The Dementia Champions are challenged to innovate and develop new solutions for supporting people with dementia.

Dementia Champions ensure there are person-centred care plans for people with dementia. As a group, the Champions are developing a personal care plan for every patient/ current patient/ person diagnosed with dementia, as part of the Effective Practitioner Programme.

Working as equal partners with families, friends and carers

The ‘Getting to Know Me’ dementia resource has been widely implemented within the Western Isles. This leaflet/ booklet/ info sheet allows the person with dementia to set down, with assistance if necessary, their personal preferences for being addressed, meals, activities.

The aim is that everyone with a known diagnosis of dementia will have possession of a complete end up to date version of the resource.

‘Getting to Know Me’ is distributed widely by many agencies/staff including: Alzheimer Scotland, Dementia Link Workers, Community Nurses, Occupational Therapists, Social Workers, Community Psychiatric Nurses, and the Third Sector.

Use evidence based screening and assessment tools for diagnosis

Transnational learning

Through the Remodem European Union-funded Northern Peripheries program much transnational learning has taken place.

Remodem consisted of the Western Isles, Shetland, Stirling, Norway, Sweden, Faeroes, and Greenland, bringing together statutory and voluntary sector agencies and communities in its work.

Remodem has enabled evaluating care for people with dementia in remote and rural communities.

Learning has included a nurse-led diagnosis and sheltered housing model of care from Shetland. The Eden alternative philosophy is working well in care homes in the Faroe Islands for people with dementia. Eden Alternative provides a different philosophy in approaching care of people with dementia, which is working well in care homes in the Faroe Islands.

The use of technology for assisting caring for people with dementia in remote and rural communities was also evaluated. A Dementia-Friendly Communities initiative was addressed in the Western Isles through Remodem.

The Remodem evaluation was completed in October 2014, with a further application for funding being submitted to expand and enhance the work.

Minimise and respond appropriately to stress and distress

Deterioration of dementia may be due to infection and associated confusion and delirium. ‘Think Delirium’ training is provided through Priority training days.

After 1 year all registered staff should have attended a priority training day and received delirium training.

Delirium training is provided as part of the ‘Deteriorating Patient’ topic, which incorporates delirium with any other causes of deterioration.

A Delirium assessment and a delirium pathway are already in place.

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