



LOTHIAN DEMENTIA PROJECT

Facing Dementia Together: Post Diagnostic Support

February 2009 Report

Meetings have taken place or are planned with staff from each local authority with the exception of East Lothian, which is still to be arranged. NHS Sector communication continues to be fastest in these early stages, but private and other sectors are coming on board.

- Two meetings have taken place at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, providing briefing for psychiatrists of old age and other senior staff
- Meeting with the acting senior charge nurse at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh medical unit, to organise support for the education programme to ensure proper nutrition, in particular for vulnerable patients on medical wards.
- Email briefing to non-executives of the NHS Board and a plan has been prepared for the NHS Board away day.
- Visiting and briefing charge nurse in Accident and Emergency at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh
- Guidance has been provided for the core group set up to implement the new guidelines on the care of people with dementia in Accident and Emergency departments
- Lothian health and social care staff continue to make visits to the Iris Murdoch Building in Stirling to view the dementia design and technology suite, visit the dementia library and view the educational materials
- the web page for the project continues to be developed and the demographics of dementia in Lothian have now been posted there
- Ten examples of good practice in dementia care in Lothian have been written up for inclusion in a good practice briefing paper, including examples from health and social care, and the private sector. They will be posted on the website. Any further good examples will be welcomed and will be added in turn.
- Briefing meeting with Lothian chief nurse for mental health

- phone briefing for consultant in medicine for the elderly and arrangements to attend any meetings required
- Educational material has been provided for large numbers of staff in social care, in particular copies of “Coping with Dementia”
- further discussion has taken place to link the project with the palliative care strategy
- Regular meetings and briefings continue with the strategic programme manager, Older People, NHS Lothian, and the deputy director of strategic planning

The initial education strategy continues

- 40 Edinburgh social work staff attended a four hour seminar and received quantities of educational material to use with their colleagues
- Hundreds of books and DVDs continue to be distributed in acute and primary care settings, directly to staff who requested them on a range of subjects including pain and the avoidance of prescription of sedatives, communication with people with dementia etc

Over 200 staff have put themselves forward the convention which has been arranged for Murrayfield Stadium on March 20th. Staff are invited to nominate themselves and at present the least well represented groups are medical staff from primary and secondary care, and action is being taken to encourage them to attend. Briefing documents have been created to provide information on the demographics of dementia in Lothian and examples of good practice locally. A third paper, on policy, is still being prepared. All three papers will be circulated to staff when their places at the conference are confirmed.

This is a monthly 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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