



LOTHIAN DEMENTIA PROJECT

Facing Dementia Together: Post Diagnostic Support

March 2009 Report

Dementia Convention

This programme is based on determining what has been promised to meet the needs of people with dementia; identifying what services are currently available; identifying what is working well and what needs improvement; and developing ways of improving the care provided to those with dementia. It aims to engage with all agencies and groups that are involved in planning and delivering care and support from local authorities and the NHS through to police and church representatives and many others.

Over 280 staff put themselves forward to attend the convention on the 20th March. It wasn't possible to allocate all applicants a place so 150 individuals were selected from a variety of disciplines from across Lothian. This selection included staff from all four local authorities as well as the NHS and private and voluntary organisations. Those who were not allocated places will be guaranteed a place at the Good Practice Event on the 25th June 2009.

One of the key strengths of the improvement model being used is that it directly asks the professionals working in existing services what needs to change and how improvement can be delivered. The DSDC provides support to help make change happen. To that end this wide range of key stakeholders were asked to identify problems they face and consider potential solutions that will in their informed opinion improve dementia care. The focus of the meeting was on workshop sessions to gather as many ideas as possible on the best way forward.

The DSDC will develop a proposed action plan based on the findings of the convention. This will be circulated among service providers who will be encouraged to take responsibility for the actions outlined and evaluate their impact. They will be supported in this by the DSDC. The Lothian project section of the website at www.dementia.stir.ac.uk has already been developed to provide on-going information and support for the project over the next two years.

The DRAFT convention report has now been circulated (April 1st) to over 300 people including all those who registered for the event and interested parties who were unable to

attend. The draft report is also available from the project website. A two week window will allow for comment on the report before the drafting of the project action plan.

This report aims to capture the main ideas that emerged from the convention workshops. There were hundreds of suggestions of potential improvements that could be made, and we hope we have captured the spirit if not the letter of all of them. We are open to revision! The report has sought to concentrate on the areas for which there was most agreement across the 10 separate workshop groups.

Other activity in March includes

- Briefing meeting with Morag Prowse (non-exec director of Lothian NHS Board)
- Meeting with Accident and Emergency staff in Lothian about project and to consider possible work in that area in support of recent guidance
- Professor Andrews presented at a half day for Lothian Older People's services nursing staff
- Invitation circulated to invite people to attend public lecture by Professor June Andrews at Edinburgh Napier University, 21st April 09
- Individual staff continuing on their education programmes already started
- Lothian health and social care staff continue to make visits to the Iris Murdoch Building 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 Lothian good practice examples and dementia policy document have now been posted there
- Educational material has been provided for large numbers of staff in social care
- Regular meetings or briefings continue with the strategic programme manager, Older People, NHS Lothian, and the deputy director of strategic planning. Meeting has been arranged with the Director of Social Work for Midlothian Council and the Lead Chaplain, NHS Lothian
- 7 staff attended activities training on the 10th & 11th March, 9 attended the Dementia and Technology event on the 12th, 44 attended the Forth Valley event on the 17th and 4 attended the Iris Murdoch Building Open Day on the 27th March

- 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 design for people with dementia

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
April 1 2009