



dementia perspective



News from the Dementia Services Development Centre, University of Stirling Spring 2009

England's new dementia strategy

Professor June Andrews, Director of the DSDC, looks at ways of implementing the recommendations of England's new dementia strategy

Now that the English Health Secretary, Alan Johnson, and the Care Services Minister, Phil Hope, have launched the first ever National Dementia Strategy for England, it is time to hurry up and get on with the work. In support of the strategy, the government has pledged an extra £150 million of funding. Although this is a small amount compared with the estimated £17 billion annual spend on dementia, it will be very useful if applied correctly.

The seventeen recommendations contained in the strategy are based on the key themes:

- raising awareness and understanding
- early diagnosis and support
- living well with dementia

Having worked closely alongside the government to develop the strategy, the Alzheimer's Society believes that it "will make an incredible difference to the lives of people with dementia and their carers". Here at the Dementia Centre we hope that, in addition, it will make an incredible difference to the lives of people working in the field of dementia.

At the Dementia Centre, we are dismayed by the lack of undergraduate and preregistration education about dementia on offer to health and social care professionals. However, all is not lost. For over twenty years this centre has been creating learning materials



Dementia Services Development Centre team

which support those working in the field to improve services for people with dementia. Through our low-cost or, in some cases, free learning materials we have been able to help make change happen.

More than 1,000 care assistants have benefited from our training programme which we know changes the culture of a hospital ward or a care home. As a non-profit provider of education and information, it is important to us that changes to services, which are funded by tax payers, are made in the most cost-effective way. Doing things properly costs less than doing them badly.

In our work in Australia, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland - wherever we go - it is ironic that, no matter how different or exotic the

"Doing things properly costs less than doing them badly"

location, the problems associated with providing care for dementia are the same. There is a stigma about the problems of ageing and a sense of helplessness. So demonstrating what can be done is just as important as achieving a diagnosis in the first place.

Last week I went out for tea with a woman with dementia in her seventies. She said "I don't feel any different. I am just getting on with things. I need to hurry up, though." I think the message for all of us working in the field is that we need to hurry up too.



The Dementia Services Development Centre



UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING

DVD showcases the therapeutic benefits of performing arts

Red Nose Coming, a DVD which illustrates the benefits of using the performing arts to communicate with older people with dementia, was launched on 10 March.

It features the work of Hearts&Minds, an Edinburgh-based charity whose innovative arts-in-health programmes have helped 14,000 children and older people in 14 hospitals and hospices across Scotland. Wearing their trademark red noses, qualified clown performers called Elderflowers are shown using a range of non-verbal communication, humour and creative activities to engage with older people with dementia.

The DVD is a collaboration between the DSDC and Hearts&Minds and was launched by the charity's director Magdalena Schamberger at the 'Running a successful activities programme' event at the DSDC.

You can buy a copy of Red Nose Coming at www.dementiashop.co.uk



Protecting the human rights of people with dementia

Ensuring that the voices of people with dementia are heard, and their human rights upheld, was at the heart of the recent Consent, Capacity and Human Rights in dementia care conference in Belfast. Stimulated by the consultation process on mental health legislation in Northern Ireland, the conference attracted participants from across Europe.

Forthcoming legislation in Northern Ireland will address issues of capacity and update existing mental health legislation to bring it into line with practice elsewhere in the UK and Europe. Delegates travelled from Spain, France, the Republic of Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland to the event which was supported by Law Centre (NI).

Among the key speakers were the law centre's Ursula O'Hare, Alzheimer's Society chief executive Neil Hunt, Professor June Andrews and Dr Cesar Rodriguez, a DSDC trustee and Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry at NHS Tayside.



Keynote speaker Neil Hunt, Chief Executive of the Alzheimer's Society, addresses the conference

The discussion with delegates highlighted the need for training. Delegates also suggested that the expertise of a wide range of knowledge, skills and professions has to be harnessed to make change happen.

The consultation process for the legislative framework for mental capacity and mental health legislation closed on 31 March.

3rd International Dementia Conference in York

Registration is now open for the Dementia Services Development Centre's 3rd International Conference. Delegates from across the world will gather at York Racecourse from 14 to 16 September to 'face the future' of dementia care.

The conference focuses on the policy, practice and social trends which will shape the world's response to dementia-related issues as many more people learn to live with dementia. The conference concentrates on the medical, social and political implications of dementia and how this relates to whole person, multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional research.

The conference focuses on areas which will be of particular interest to all those involved in dementia care including service commissioners, health care professionals, inspectors, planners, architects and care home staff. The programme has been structured to enable delegates to attend symposia and presentations which fit their needs and interests.

Superb conference facilities and events

The event will take place in the spectacular surroundings of York Racecourse, renowned for award-winning hospitality, and within a mile of the historic city of York. A pre-conference networking event on 14

Headline speakers at the conference are drawn from across the world and provide a broad spectrum of expertise on dementia:

- **Dr Karen Ritchie, Research Director, French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM), France**
- **Professor Alistair Burns, Deputy Dean, Clinical Affairs, University of Manchester, England**
- **Professor Steven Sabat, Professor of Psychology, Georgetown University, USA**
- **Professor Mary Marshall, Emeritus Professor of the University of Stirling, Scotland**



September is an opportunity to meet with fellow delegates and speakers and relax before the conference begins the following day. This evening will include a rehearsed reading of *The Woman from the North* by Belfast born playwright Bernard MacLaverty, a powerful dramatisation of one woman's experience of residential care which sets out some of the challenges involved in responding to dementia care. There will also be an address by Professor June Andrews, DSDC and Professor Sube Banerjee, King's College London.

The evening of 15 September will begin with a drinks reception and the conference dinner. The dinner will be followed by the Dementia UK Awards Ceremony, to recognise excellence in the field of dementia care.

Visit www.dementia.stir.ac.uk or www.dementia.co.uk to book online or contact Jemma Galbraith (jemma.galbraith@stir.ac.uk) for more details

Early bird rates and other special discounts

Register before the end of June and save up to £35. Until 30 June two-day attendance will cost £250 with one-day attendance priced at £150. From 1 July the standard rate of £285 and £175 applies. There are a limited number of places available for students and voluntary sector workers who can book at a special rate of £150 for two-day attendance or £100 for one day. Similarly, limited places are on offer to people with dementia and their carers who are invited to attend at a reduced rate of £120 and £65 for two and one day attendance respectively. Accommodation information is available through the DSDC website's dedicated event and conference pages.

www.dementia.stir.ac.uk

Dementia support service for Scotland's voluntary sector

Over the last twelve months, as part of the Scottish voluntary sector dementia support service, the DSDC has provided a range of support to the voluntary sector across Scotland. The project grant, provided by the Tudor Trust, enables the Scottish voluntary sector to access services such as training, consultancy and organisational analysis that they might not normally be able to afford. The ultimate aim of the project is to help improve care for people with dementia across Scotland.

Many organisations have benefited, including Age Concern, which took advantage of design consultancy services and training, the Richmond Fellowship which gained valuable information from

the DSDC's consultancy service and Crossreach which was provided with an extensive bespoke training programme.

All voluntary organisations across Scotland can benefit from specific dementia-related services. Using established assessment methods, the DSDC will undertake an in-depth analysis of your service delivery and provide a detailed report with recommendations on how to enhance your service. Support can also be provided to help you take forward these recommendations. Expert consultancy services and training are also available.

The dementia support service project will run for two more years.

Find out how to apply for services by contacting Jemma Galbraith, (jemma.galbraith@stir.ac.uk) or visiting www.dementia.stir.ac.uk



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Visit our new website at www.dementia.stir.ac.uk

The Dementia Services Development Centre has re-launched its website.

You can still find us at the same web address but click on www.dementia.stir.ac.uk and you will find a new site packed with interactive features and up to date information on dementia services and events.

The site now has a more contemporary feel but is easy to navigate for web novices. Find out more about the specific services which interest you by clicking on the menu or text links. Featured pages include current projects, education and training, events,

consultancy, design and technology, library and publications.

Interactive services mean that you can now watch videos on dementia-related subjects and interviews with specialists as well as viewing clips from recent DSDC events. We also have the facilities to produce podcasts and you can subscribe to RSS news feeds which bring you world and national information on dementia topics.

Regularly updated publication lists and a superb gallery of images are other highlights of the new site. So please visit us at www.dementia.stir.ac.uk to find

out all of the latest DSDC news and information about our services.



Online dementia shop opens its doors

The new online DementiaShop went live on 18 March - giving customers the chance to buy DSDC publications and resources and book places at events at the click of a button. Featuring user-friendly services, up to date publication lists and easy to follow ordering information, the online shop has been given a facelift to help meet your needs. You can book your place for any DSDC organised event, including the 3rd annual DSDC international conference at York Race Course in September.

Shopping online also means that you can search for the publication you need in specific categories, add it to your shopping cart and then make a

secure payment. If you prefer a more personal approach you can still contact the DSDC by phone and speak to a member of staff. One option is to browse for information online and then contact us with the title, number of copies required and your payment details - then let us do the rest.

You are also welcome to visit us at the Iris Murdoch Building where we can show you copies of the books, CDs, DVDs or merchandise you require.



General publications are on display in our reception area while subject specific publications are always available during conferences and seminars.

To place an order or book a place at one of our events, visit www.dementiashop.co.uk or call Jemma Donoghue on 01786 467740

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Education and training diary

Date and price	Title	Aim
5 May 2009 (9.30am – 4pm) £120	Effective responses to continence	Looking after people with dementia who are incontinent requires particular skills. This course aims to provide guidance on how to adopt a sensitive approach, identify practical ways to help the person and understand the common types of behaviour linked to dementia and continence problems. For: Nurses, care homes workers, day care, extra care housing and home care workers working in the community
7 May 2009 £195 + VAT	Understanding dementia (conference)	In partnership with the DSDC, Malcolm Professional Services are holding a one-day conference on Understanding Dementia. The conference will give delegates an opportunity to gain a better awareness of dementia and especially the issues surrounding developing, maintaining and managing accommodation for people with dementia. For: Development, maintenance and management staff who work with people with dementia in housing settings
18 May 2009 (11am – 3pm) Free, but booking required	Dementia: a six-part self study course for healthcare assistants	A free information event about this innovative training programme Dementia: A six-part self-study course for Healthcare Assistants. Designed specifically for Healthcare Assistants working in a hospital or care home environment the format of the course enables managers to have nominated staff trained as facilitators. Each facilitator can lead workplace training sessions with groups of up to 8 staff. For: Practice development managers in health, training managers in social care, ward managers, Care home managers and senior staff
19–21 May 2009 £750 per person (bed & breakfast: £90 per person, per night; dinner, bed & breakfast: £110 per person, per night)	Design and dementia	This school will cover a range of issues including effective commissioning, project management, designing the external and internal environment and lighting. Theoretical and practical input over the three days will involve lectures, workshops and discussion groups. Guidance will be provided on using the DSDC's design audit tool as a reference text for the design process.* For: Commissioners of Service, Architects, Senior Managers/Planners, Care Home Managers and anyone interested in design for dementia *Please note that the seminar on design audit will equip delegates in how to utilise the DSDC's design audit tool as a reference text, but will not qualify delegates as registered auditors, as this service is exclusively offered by the University of Stirling
12 June 2009 (10am – 4pm) £150 including resource pack	Acute care and People with dementia	People with dementia entering hospital through Accident and Emergency departments become more disoriented, confused and anxious because of noise, the many strange faces, the lack of communication and the waiting. This seminar will present recent research findings completed by the DSDC that identified seven key areas that could be improved in relation to the care of people with dementia in acute settings and also launch a new resource pack. For: Ward managers, nurses, health care assistants and hospital social workers
18 June 2009 (10am – 1pm) £25	Open day	An opportunity to hear about the work of the centre and to be up-dated about current issues and best practice in dementia care. Delegates will also be able to visit our specialist dementia library and assistive technology suite. A buffet lunch will be provided. For: All those supporting people with dementia
Coming Soon (check website for updated details)	Learning disability and dementia	A one day seminar that will consider the particular needs and challenges of supporting Individuals with learning disabilities and dementia. There will be the launch of a new training resource pack developed jointly with the Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability on this day. For: All workers supporting people with dementia and learning disability

To book a place on any of these courses phone Lynsey Manson on 01786 467740 or visit www.dementia.stir.ac.uk