

Vision and Strategy: An Approach for Dementia Care



Care

- Respect people with dementia, recognising the patients views and preferences
- Develop an environment that is adapted for dementia care and that maximises wellbeing
- Recognise dementia is not a mental health problem exclusively and support the right to dignity in care
- Connect families to resources and connect communities to support health and wellbeing
- Work in partnership with the patient/carer to take time to listen, use the carer as a resource
- Know the person not the condition, focus on unmet need
- Value the individual and their story, do not judge

Compassion

- Support people with dementia to live well and stay independent
- Show empathy and kindness during times of distress
- Respond to the uniqueness of the patient
- Act for the dementia patient with integrity
- Help and supports carers to cope
- Ensure person based approach that respect the person and the things that still matter

Competence

- Recognise your role in dementia care no matter what speciality or field of nursing
- Promote and lead dementia awareness
- Understand the complexities of dementia care, the wider pathway and supporting services
- Understand the complex physical, mental health, emotional and spiritual needs
- Support advanced care planning, choices and wishes as illness develops
- Promote public health messaging "health heart / health head"

Communication

- Recognise every contact can contribute to early identification, diagnosis, support and treatment
- Communicate sensitively to support meaningful interaction
- Provide information and use skills to provide a seamless interface and care between patient, community and other agencies
- Use all available resources including technology and social media to improve care and access to services
- Create partnerships with the family

Courage

- Make dementia everyone's business, and champion excellent dementia care
- Stand up for patients and against 'dementiaism' and 'carerism'
- Is proud to care for people with dementia
- Lead and champion the importance of dementia nursing
- Challenge the system to ensure patients' best interests are at the centre of service delivery
- Empower and supports choice

Commitment

- Make dementia care valued
- Commit to action such as the delivery of a dementia friendly environment
- Deliver and designs innovative and quality dementia services
- Commit to improving health and wellbeing for those with dementia
- Uses specialist knowledge to influence and direct commissioning
- Reduce stigma around dementia, raise awareness and inspire others
- Sign up to 1 Million Friends

Demonstrating 6Cs in Dementia Practice

Maximising the unique Nursing contribution to high quality, compassionate and excellent care and support for all people with Dementia and their Carers, caring for loved ones with dementia.

Service Offer – Our offer is to all nurses and to every person with dementia and their carers

Key Facts

- Dementia is a term that is used to describe a collection of symptoms including memory loss, problems with reasoning, perception and communication skills. It also leads to a reduction in a person's abilities and skills in carrying out routine activities such as washing, dressing and cooking.
- The most common types are: Alzheimer's disease, Vascular dementia, Fronto-temporal dementia and Dementia with Lewy bodies- all progressive conditions, which means symptoms are likely to get worse over time. The progression will vary from person to person and each will experience dementia in a different way.
- The number of people with dementia is increasing and presents a significant and urgent challenge to health and social care, both in terms of the number of people affected and the associated cost.

Dementia Vision

This vision was developed in recognition of the needs for a much greater common understanding and awareness across all fields of nursing on what the nursing contribution to the dementia challenge is and what constitutes good quality in dementia nursing care, public health prevention, treatment and support.

- Dementia nursing is complex, exciting and challenging. This nursing vision describes how every nurse needs to involve themselves in dementia care across the whole pathway.
- The nursing vision requires all nurses to know about dementia, know the early signs, as early diagnosis of dementia helps people receive information, support and treatment at the earliest possible stage.
- The nursing vision requires all nurses to increase basic awareness, reducing social stigma, lack of knowledge, to ensuring the best care for people with dementia at the end of their lives and enabling, if not providing, on-going support to families.
- It describes and defines what is expected of nurses in order to meet the level and quality of care we all expect, every time, right now and in the future within all care settings.
- The inter-connectivity between all fields of nursing, environments of care and a collaborative approach to deliver co-ordinated services is central to the success of Dementia care and the Dementia Challenge.
- It is essential to understand the range and breadth of partner agencies and their role in supporting people with dementia and providing care nearer to home, both within the NHS, social care and wider community.
- The Vision and Service Model is set in the context of the broader national nursing strategy - Developing a Culture of Compassionate Care, which includes the six Cs - for dementia nursing values and behaviours together with the six priority actions for maintaining health and wellbeing outcomes relating to Dementia Care.

All nurses and midwives contribute to the early part of the pathway. Nurses with specific and or specialist skills and roles will support at different points in the Dementia Journey

