

Dementia Care Policy

Policy Statement

This care service recognises that a significant number of its users might have some form and degree of dementia, which might change or progress during the time that they receive the service. Other service users might develop the signs and symptoms of dementia after beginning to receive the service. This care service strives to achieve the same high standards of care for all of its service users with dementia. It also recognises that dementia is an illness in its own right and that people with dementia have specific needs requiring, in turn, specific strategies in response.

This care service's approach to its dementia care is consistent with the common values, principles and standards that apply to all service users and national standards for dementia care developed by expert bodies such as the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence and the Social Care Institute for Excellence. It recognises the importance of the Government's Dementia Care Strategy and is committed to its implementation.

Aim of Policy

This policy is intended to set out the values, principles and strategies underpinning the care service's approach to people who have some form of dementia.

Principles

1. This care service follows principles of person-centred care in assessing and addressing the needs of its users with dementia.
2. It also attempts to see the person with dementia as a whole person — not just someone who has a label of dementia attached to them.
3. This care service's policies on equality and diversity apply to its users with dementia as they do to all others. People are not to be excluded from any aspect of the service provision as defined in the Statement of Purpose because they have been assessed as having dementia in addition to other needs.
4. This care service requires its staff to treat people with dementia with respect at all times and to value their dignity.
5. This care service works closely with informal carers and relatives in assessing and addressing the needs of the person with dementia.
6. It also recognises that people with dementia have a right to express their wants and wishes and to take their own decisions according to their capacity to do so.
7. This care service complies with the provisions of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 in respect of the decision-taking required by or on behalf of anyone with dementia. It seeks local safeguarding advice whenever it comes across people who might be being deprived of their liberty because of being subject to restrictions to which they have not given their consent.

Assessment, Diagnosis and Reviews

1. This care service works closely with local medical services including psychogeriatric services to ensure all service users are properly and appropriately diagnosed and assessed.
2. It ensures that the health of all service users who have a diagnosis of dementia is regularly monitored and reviewed.
3. It pays particular attention to ensuring that the medication prescribed to service users with dementia is monitored and regularly reviewed.
4. This care service recognises that service users might have different forms of dementia and will be at different stages in the progression of the illness. It recognises that the effects of the illness will therefore vary from individual to individual and that a differential approach to each person's needs should always be taken.

Care Strategies

1. This care service recognises that no single strategy is sufficient and that most with dementia will need a combination of approaches that might involve the prescribing of appropriate medicines and drugs, focused social care and support and in some cases, specialised psychological interventions. All interventions need to be developed as a whole and in relation to one another.
2. This care service aims to contribute to the range of interventions and programmes that commonly aim to maintain the capacities of people with dementia and improves their sense of wellbeing and quality of life.
3. This care service works to ensure that all service users with dementia are never socially excluded because of their dementia and are able to lead a full life of their own choosing.

Staff Development and Training

1. This care service ensures that all staff receive dedicated training in dementia care principles and methods.
2. Staff new to care work are expected to achieve the Care Certificate Standard 9: Awareness of Mental Health, Dementia and Learning Disability, which is also used as a minimum benchmark for all care staff working with people with dementia.
3. Staff receive more advanced training in line with their roles and responsibilities for service users who have dementia, such as when they take on the role of "Dementia Champion".

Signed: Ian Booy (MD)

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