

# Working together to develop Dementia Awareness

## DEMENTIA TEAM APPROACH

**T** - ogether  
**R** - espond & engage  
**U** - nderstand  
**S** - afe Handling  
**T** - raining & Development  
**R** - espect  
**D** - eliver Dementia Awareness  
**&**  
**E** - ffective communication

As an organisation we have identified the need for staff to receive appropriate training to develop awareness of Dementia. Understanding how dementia can affect an individual's behaviour will better equip staff to manage the challenging behaviour that is often linked to an individual's cognitive decline.



The Trust in-house security physical intervention and safe handling tutors have worked closely with clinical areas to understand the challenges of caring for patients with dementia and similar cognitive impairment. A Dementia Awareness Trainer is able to deliver tailored sessions that address the specific challenges faced by an organisation, whether supporting the elderly or those with a learning disability.



Creating ward level staff as dementia champions will enable staff to develop and provide effective strategies and relevant skill sets to manage behaviour that may become challenging, therefore reducing the need for reliance on a 'chemical cosh' or physical intervention. All in-house security staff will receive the same training working closely with the wards and staff ensuring an organisational empathy and understanding for the challenges experienced at ward level



Staff from the Care of the Elderly Wards have received Dementia Champion Training to enable them to have a greater understanding of the issues around dementia care. They will also receive ongoing support and supervision from the Liaison Psychiatry Team on a regular basis to allow them to develop their skills further and talk through current issues on the wards. The training provides them with the skills to help them:

- Have a more accurate understanding of the word dementia,
- To understand the lived experience of the person with dementia,
- To recognise and minimise the causes of avoidable difficulties
- To recognise factors that can impact on successful communication
- To provide them with some strategies and an increased knowledge to enable them to help the person living with a dementia.
- Basic breakaway skills and low level safe holding skills



**All staff involved on the ward will receive a half day training session developing an understanding and awareness of specific challenging behaviour experienced on the ward with key identified staff becoming dementia champions and receiving a full day training programme with support and training updates provided by security physical intervention and safe handling tutors.**