

The Role of the Dementia Liaison and Co-ordination Champion

The Dementia Liaison and Co-ordination Champion (DLCC) provides a 'link' between theory and best practice. These are people nominated by managers to undertake training, leading to a Level 3 Certificate in Dementia.

Their role is to support the person with dementia and their loved ones throughout the progression of their condition, promoting individually tailored care that is person centred. These champions are tasked with embedding good practice into their organisations by linking with other staff members and professionals to promote good practice through knowledge and skills, and to link with other DLCC's for peer support and sharing of ideas.

This project has a vision that, by identifying a person to co-ordinate and lead on dementia care and by supporting their development, this could impact positively upon the quality of care delivered.

Who are they?

The DLCC is an experienced and enthusiastic member of the care home/domiciliary care establishment who, will be supported to complete a Level 3 Certificate in Dementia. They will have evidenced appropriate dementia knowledge and skills through full completion of the pathway and be passionate about person centred dementia care.

Why has the role been developed?

- To embed and sustain training into everyday practice
- To allow experts to be developed and acknowledged
- To provide staff development opportunities
- To improve the care and support delivered to people with dementia and their families

What impact will the role have?

- Drive up the quality of dementia care
- Promote best practice to support people with dementia and their families
- Promote the well being and rights of people with dementia
- Allow staff to feel supported in looking for solutions
- Provide opportunities for staff to discuss dementia care practice

Educational Development

Working with practitioners from the Community Challenging Behaviour Function Older Persons teams, we developed a 2 day training programme to deliver the underpinning knowledge for the Level 3 Certificate in Dementia. A training provider was commissioned to register these candidates onto this qualification and assess how they apply learning in their workplace.

Workplace support

Clinicians and Tyne and Wear Care Alliance staff are working in the community and supporting the DLCC to gain skills, knowledge and confidence in delivering real person centred care. Through the support of a commissioned training provider the DLCC's are demonstrating the skills and knowledge to make a real difference to the quality of life for their residents and support colleagues.

Forums

Regular contact with the Champions is maintained via forums, which are facilitated by the Community Challenging Behaviour teams. These are called 'Best Practice Forums'; they are facilitated bi-monthly and are an ideal opportunity for the DLCC's from care providers to study collectively all aspects of qualitative dementia care.