

Dementia information booklets

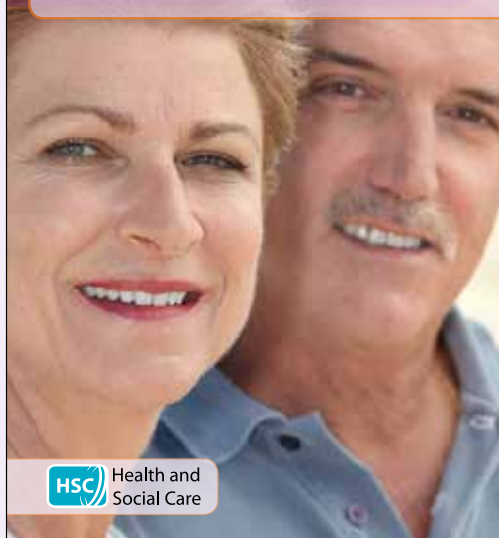
This quarter sees the launch of two booklets aimed at those who may be worried about dementia or have just been diagnosed. These were developed by meeting with those affected by the condition and asking them the type of information they needed. These booklets are the first of four, with each covering a different stage of dementia. This is to allow people to access timely information

about the condition when it is appropriate without overwhelming them. These booklets will be supplemented by information leaflets to support hard to reach groups as well as the development of our online resources. This is a great step forward for the project and will hopefully see more people seek a diagnosis of dementia and realise the wide variety of help and support available out there.

Are you worried about dementia?



The early stages of dementia



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Congratulations to Eleanor Ross!

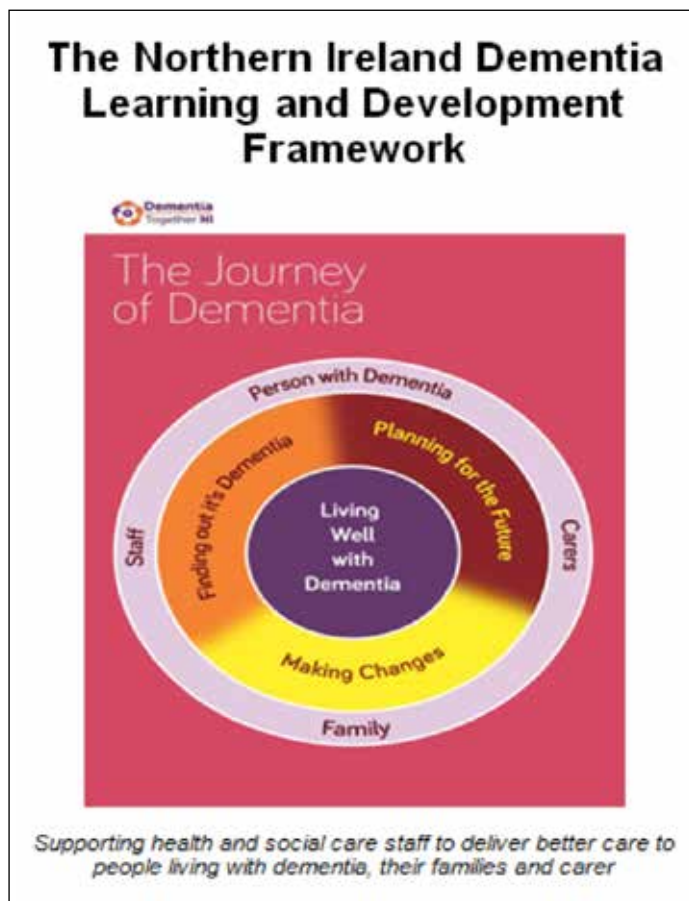


Congratulations to Eleanor Ross, who received an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to nursing and healthcare in Northern Ireland. She recently attended her investiture at Buckingham Palace to receive her award from Prince Charles. Eleanor co-chairs the Dementia Strategy Implementation Group and has been key in developing and supporting the Dementia Together NI project.

Northern Ireland Dementia Learning and Development Framework

Following several workshops from June 2015 – January 2016 with key stakeholders including carers and people living with a dementia, the **Northern Ireland Dementia Learning and Development Framework** is currently being finalised following a four week period of engagement.

The framework aims to standardise education in dementia care to ensure consistency in standards and approach for all health and social care staff.



With approximately 20,000 people living with a dementia in Northern Ireland, it is vital that health and social care staff are appropriately trained and competent in their role to be aware of the needs of the individuals living with a dementia and their carers/families.

Expressions of interest have been received from over 170 members of staff from both the statutory and independent sectors to undertake Dementia Champions training.

The training is designed to up-skill existing health and social care staff. Up to 300 **Dementia Champions** will be trained over the next year with the first cohort of applicants expected to commence their training in May 2016.

World Social Work Day

To celebrate World Social Work Day, a breakfast was hosted by Fionnuala McAndrew, Health and Social Care Board Director for Social Care and Children, in Linen Hall Street on March 14 2016.

This was a great event, showcasing some of the great work going on across the Directorate.

Dementia Together NI hosted a stand at the event. This allowed the team to spread the word about the project, showcasing the new Learning and Development Framework and a great animation raising much needed awareness about delirium. Thank you to everyone who took the time to stop and talk to us.



**Pictured (R-L) –
Martin McCrory,
Teresa McGarvey,
Fionnuala McAndrew,
Lorna Conn, Dr Eddie
Rooney and Nichola
Cullen.**

Delirium management training

Delirium management training commenced across the acute sector in January 2015, using the regionally developed training materials. In total 274 staff have been trained across seven hospital sites. Staff from all disciplines and grades were included in these sessions reflective of their roles in areas identified as having a population of patients that are at high risk of delirium. The ten collaborative pilot wards and their 'patient flow' wards were targeted in this first round of on-site training, bringing the total number of wards to 25. We are currently analysing the pre- and post-training questionnaires that staff completed to identify areas of knowledge improved and potential areas for further focus. Feedback has

been very positive from front line staff in relation to the content and delivery of training.

All training materials will be included in a facilitators pack for future use by HSCTs to ensure the sustainability of the regional delirium training programme. The eLearning package will also reflect the regional information, for the one hour management and 15 minute awareness session, and will enable staff to complete on site in the future. We envision that the animation reflective of delirium awareness information will be distributed to HSC staff in the first instance, with proposed development of IOS and android platform versions to increase circulation audience in the future.

Dementia Together NI

Work within the awareness raising, information and support project is gathering pace this month. One of the key areas is information development and delivery across the region. It is vital that we make information as readily accessible to those affected by dementia as possible and also that any information developed is as dementia friendly as possible. To this end, Martin McCrory has been out and about meeting different groups to discuss these issues. He met with Dementia NI to discuss the development of our online resources. The group gave some great feedback which has been taken on board. They were very enthusiastic and glad to be consulted on this issue. The online information will be live by the end of February and will be tested with the group again to ensure it meets their needs. This is vital if we want to empower people with dementia to take control of their lives and live as well as they possibly can with the condition.

While meeting with people with dementia is a key part of our information development, it is important we do not forget those groups that can be hard to reach. There has been on-going meetings and discussions with many of these groups, one of which is An Munia Tober, a Traveller support organisation dedicated to the reduction of inequalities that effect the Traveller population in Greater Belfast through improvements in health, housing, education/ training, economic, young people's outcomes and integration activities. Martin McCrory

attended a health fair organised by An Munia Tober to raise awareness about the project and the great work going on. He also asked about the needs of this community in terms of information delivery and got some very interesting feedback. Dementia Together NI will continue to work closely with An Munia Tober to develop information tailored to their needs and also to look at ways of developing the Dementia Champions role to this community.



Martin McCrory at a health fair arranged by An Munia Tober in Belfast



Martin McCrory meeting with Dementia NI in Clotworthy House, Antrim.

Other groups that are currently being discussed engaging further with are prison workers, clergy, schools, learning disability, visually impaired/blind, those with a hearing loss and those who do not have English as a primary language. A great amount of work to be done but all worthwhile in making sure we reach as many people as possible. We would like to thank all groups involved in our work so far for their vital contributions and continued support to making the lives of those affected by dementia in Northern Ireland better.

Dementia NI Belfast empowerment group launches



Dementia NI, a new membership organisation specifically for people living with a diagnosis of dementia, is inviting people to join them to challenge the stigma of dementia. The new charity, set up by people with a dementia, is focused influencing policy, practice and service delivery for people living with dementia.

Dementia NI already has an established group in Antrim. Group member Liz Cunningham, who lives with a rare form of Dementia called posterior cortical atrophy (PCA) is heading up the new action group in Belfast, and is appealing for the public to get involved.

Tara Collins, programme manager, said:

“Dementia empowerment groups are being set up in each HSCT area across Northern Ireland. At present we are encouraging individuals with a diagnosis of any type of dementia who live within the Belfast HSCT catchment area to join Liz with their local action group and become involved in this important area. We are delighted with our progress to date and have received huge support from professionals and MLAs, including Mr Chris Lyttle, who attended our launch and is a keen advocate for dementia.

Dementia NI action groups help influence how people can live well with a diagnosis of dementia. Members of staff support the dementia action groups and provide a platform to encourage individuals to play a bigger part in influencing and shaping dementia policy. The purpose of the action groups are to challenge the stigma surrounding a diagnosis, raise awareness of dementia as well as provide training and education to the public and other organisations of how to live well with dementia.”

John McErlean, Co-Chair of Dementia NI and who is living with dementia, said:

“We have a very important job to do in challenging the stigma. While I have dementia, I can still do things for myself and make decisions; I just need society to allow me the time to do it in my way. I don't know how much time I have but I do know that we need to be challenging the stigma of dementia and that is what we plan to do through Dementia NI.”

We welcome any individual with dementia living within the Belfast HSCT catchment area to get in touch.

For further details, please contact our offices on: 07966 881 429 or email info@dementiani.org



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Social Care**

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Find us on:



**Dementia
Together NI**



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