Improving Dementia Care within the Orthotic Service

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The Idea
In keeping with the Scottish Government Dementia Strategy 2017-2020 the Dementia Within Orthotic Care Working Group (DWOCWG) is committed to helping create:

“a Scotland where people with dementia and those who care for them have access to timely, skilled and well-coordinated support from diagnosis to end of life which helps achieve the outcomes that matter to them”

The aim of the Orthotic Service is to enable patients living with dementia and their family/carers to achieve the outcomes that matter to them.

The Plan
“Education, training and skills acquisition are hallmarks of good dementia care”
As Dementia Champion Susie Fraser began implementing Action 2 of the National Action Plan; developing the whole workforce in line with the Promoting Excellence Knowledge and Skills Framework.
To achieve this the DWOCWG was created, including staff, patients living with dementia and their family/carers. This group along with a care area evaluation informed all subsequent action.

How We Started
We established the baseline of dementia knowledge, confidence and attitudes within the Orthotic Team.

We then recruited lay members to the DwOCWG, held meetings to discuss their priorities so that improvements could be made in partnership with stakeholders.

Where we are now
Positive Action 4 - NES dementia resources are currently being utilised by all staff as part of their Personal Development Review process.
We have now achieved our first 4 positive actions. By actively engaging with carers/family and attending training sessions delivered by lay members of DwOCWG and Alzheimers Scotland staff confidence has noticeably improved.
Positive Action 5 will involve the team developing new orthotic specific resources and creating an orthotic symbol to aid recognition.
The key outcome is that staff have demonstrated that they are motivated/keen to learn more and develop their practical knowledge to assist all service users. The questionnaires will be re-administered at the end of this process.

Acknowledgements & References
Nicola Munro, Interim Orthotic Clinical Lead, Lay members of DwOCWG, Kevin Black, Dementia Advisor, Alzheimer Scotland. Kirsty Lattka, Senior Medical Photographer.


Dr S Rahman & Professor R Howard (2018) Essentials of Dementia, Jessica Kingsley Publishers

Figures 1 and 2 show the results of 2 questionnaires completed by staff in 2016. The results show that staff attitudes towards people with dementia were positive but confidence in their knowledge and skills were not as consistent.