Dementia Care is Everyone’s Business

Helen Reeves, Angela Causton, Michael Hurt, St Giles Hospice, Whittington, UK; Pathways 4 Life, Walsall, UK; NHS Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group, Walsall, UK

Background: Studies have found that people with dementia are often admitted to hospital unnecessarily from care homes by staff who have not received enough support to help them understand dementia and how to support them at the end of life.

Aims: The presentation will cover how working collaboratively has resulted in a change across the culture of Walsall healthcare, leading to improved outcomes for patients with dementia. It will provide practical solutions to commonly found problems when looking at service improvements and provide an honest account of setting up a collaborative partnership between organisations and the challenges we encountered and the ways we overcame them.

Method: Support is provided by a range of methods including observations, support sessions, forums and steering groups. Homes can access as much or as little as they want and have ongoing contact to ensure their needs are met. Collaboratively working with other services for more joined up working.

Results: As a direct result of the service we now have a community dementia steering group that brings together a range of professionals including care homes, ambulance service, hospital, hospice, community professionals, commissioners to name a few. Here we focus on how we can all work collaboratively to improve care for dementia patients. The service is now recurrently funded and this in part is due to the service having a direct impact on the decreasing the number of patients with dementia being admitted to the acute sector.

Conclusion: There is no quick fix to improving cross boundary and sector working, however, as proven by this service by acknowledging that we all have a part to play and that we can all positively influence patients care change does not have to cost anything other than time and the dedication of the staff involved.

Developing a Community Dementia Companion Systematic Review of Facilitators and Challenges to Dying at Home with Dementia

Caroline Mogan, Mari Lloyd-Williams, Karen Harrison-Dening, Chris Dowrick, Academic Palliative and Supportive Care Studies Group, Institute of Psychology Health and Society, University of Liverpool, UK; Dementia UK, UK

Aim: This systematic review synthesised qualitative and quantitative studies to explore the challenges and facilitators of providing end of life care at home for people with dementia.

Methods: A narrative approach was adopted to provide a comprehensive synthesis of previously published literature in the area. A systematic literature search was conducted across six electronic databases (AMED, BNI, CINAHL, EMBASE, MEDLINE, and PsycINFO) and reference lists of key journals were searched up to November 2016. Included studies were appraised for quality and data thematically synthesised.

Results: Searches returned 1949 unique titles, of which seven studies met all eligibility criteria (four quantitative, three qualitative). All studies were rated for quality and six key themes identified – four facilitators and two challenges. Facilitators included ‘support from health care professionals’, ‘informal caregiver resilience’, ‘medications and symptom management’ and ‘appropriate equipment and home adaptations’. Challenges included ‘worsening of physical or mental health’ and ‘issues with formal services’.

Conclusions: People with dementia may not always require specialist palliative care at the end of life and many clinicians, services and charities support people with dementia to die well at home. Informal caregivers also provide a significant amount of this care to people. Further research is required to establish how clinicians, statutory services, voluntary agencies and volunteers can support families to allow a greater number of people with dementia to die at home and to determine what services are required to facilitate home death for people with dementia.

Extending Volunteer-Led Hospice Services

Claire Halley, Lyn Deakin, Dawn Lawton, East Cheshire Hospice, Macclesfield, UK

Abstracts