

Scotland's National Dementia Champions Programme: a positive example of how to educate health and social care professionals to improve care experiences for people with dementia and family carers:

Dr Rhoda MacRae
Reader

Alzheimer Scotland Centre for Policy and Practice

Alzheimer Scotland Centre for policy and practice



Applied research for policy
and practice

Education to promote
evidence informed practice

Policy influencing and
implementation

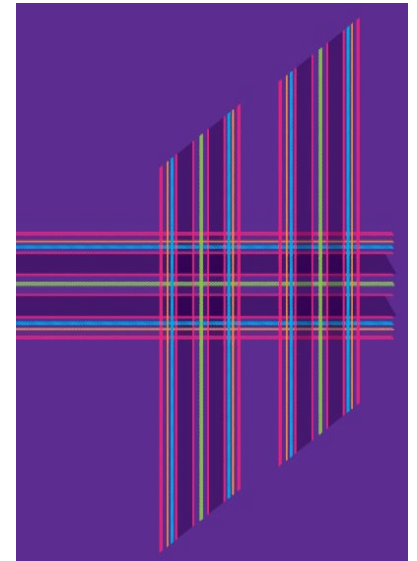
In partnership with
people with dementia,
their family

Talk Plan



Context and overview of the national dementia champions programme

How we educate healthcare professionals on the National Dementia Champions Programme to work collaboratively with those they are caring for and their loved ones.



Background to Dementia champions programme



Rights based educational response to reports of poor care and poor outcomes

Dementia education for healthcare professionals inadequate and inconsistent

Commissioned as part of Scottish Government dementia strategies since 2011



Perfect storm



People living with dementia (and by extension family carers) considered the responsibility of mental health services.

Staff educationally ill equipped to meet the complex and unique needs – negative outcomes for people with dementia, their families and staff

The programme



All features of effective dementia education (Surr & Gates, 2017)

Aligned to national dementia knowledge and skills framework (PE, 2021)

People living with dementia and family carers are integral partners in the development and delivery

The programme



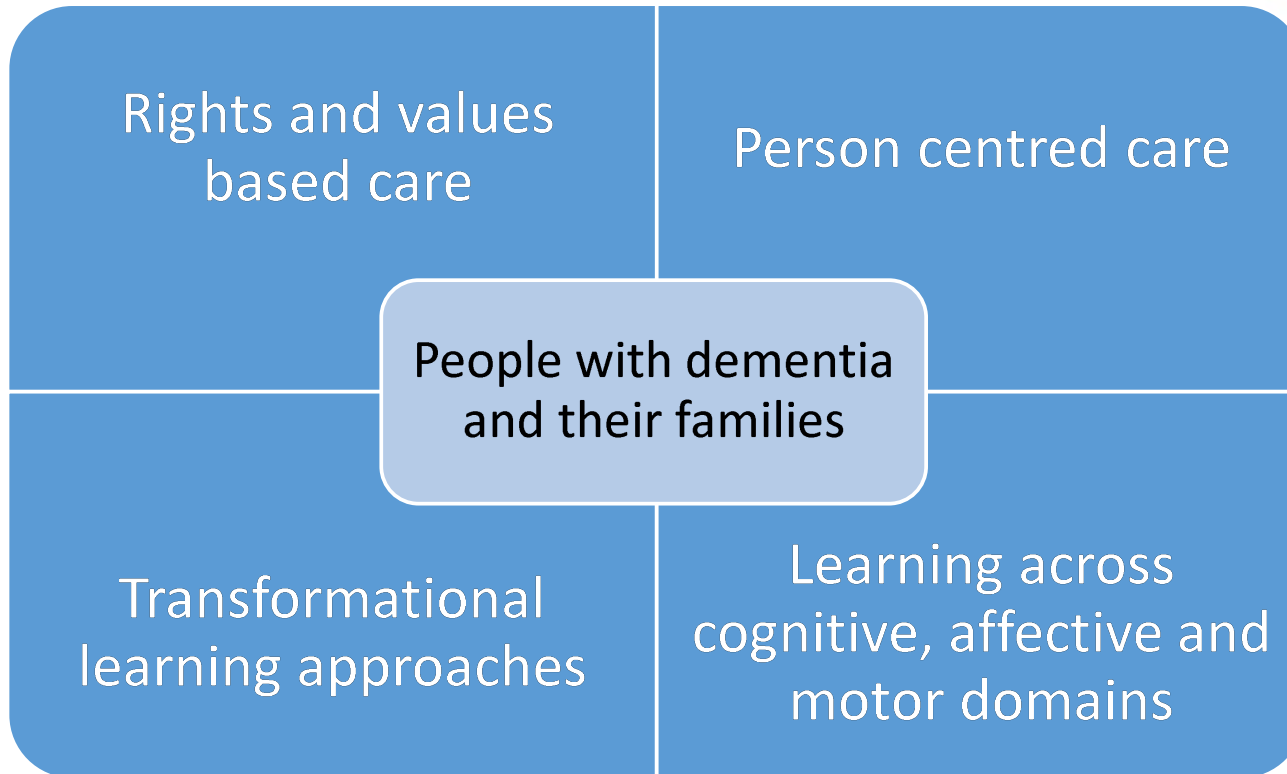
Five days of education over six months

Goes beyond individual knowledge gain, participants asked to collaboratively identify, plan, implement and lead targeted practice change in their care setting

Pivoted to digital programme in 2021



Our approach



Our approach



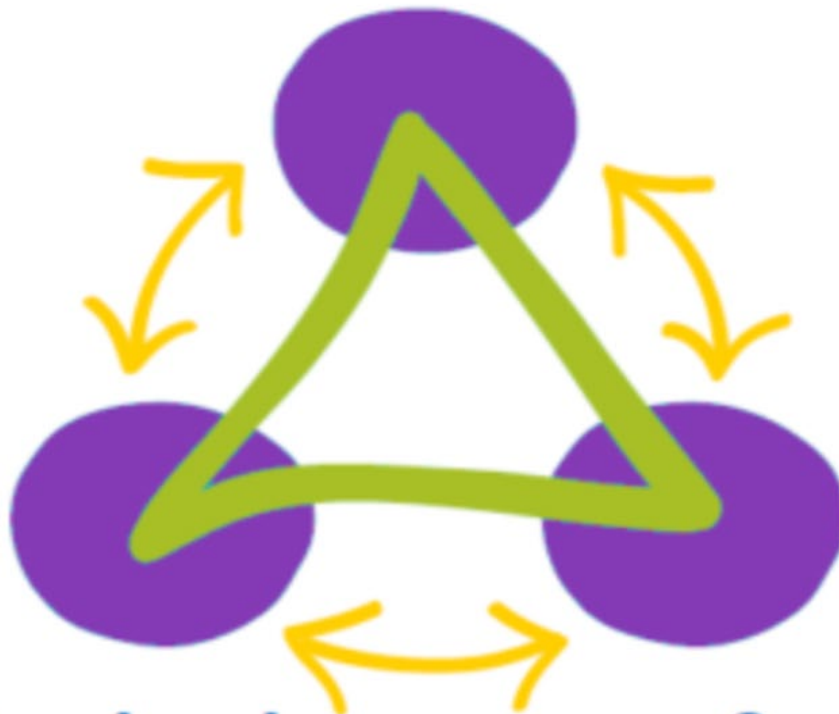
Being up close:

- Learning from people with dementia
- Being with people with dementia
- Learning from family and friends
- Learning from each other
- Seeing, hearing and feelings what taught

Caring is a Partnership

Service user

The Triangle of
Care



Professional

Carer

Family carers



Family carers are equals and experts by experience involved in designing and delivering the programme.

- make 'in conversation' films (everyone likes a story) about their experiences – what worked well and less well
- are involved in discussion groups following the delivery of content
- talk about what is important to them and what healthcare professionals can do

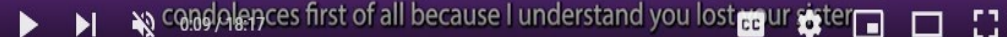
Stand out moment

“Marion’s video and the thoughts and feelings it brought up for me. It helped me to step back and look at it from a relative’s perspective rather than a professional’s experience. It made me think how do we reassure relatives that we as nurses are looking after their loved one as they expect?”

The hospital experience during Covid-19: a sister’s reflections



So, hello Marion and thank you very much for speaking to us today. My condolences first of all because I understand you lost your sister





People learn with their head,
hands and heart.

Skilled and credible facilitators
of learning

Recipients of care and family
care givers at the front and
centre – they are experts by
experience





Scottish Government (2021) Dementia - health and social services staff: framework - Promoting Excellence. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/promoting-excellence-2021-framework-health-social-services-staff-working-people-dementia-families-carers/>

Jack-Waugh, A., MacRae, R and Ritchie, L. (2018) Assessing the educational impact of the dementia champions programme in Scotland: implications for evaluating professional dementia education. *Nurse Education Today*. Vol 71, Pp 205-210
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nedt.2018.09.019>

Brown, M., Jack-Waugh, A., Sharp, B., Duffy, F. J. R. & MacRae, R. (2017). What are Dementia Champions and why do we need them? *Dementia: The International Journal of Social Research and Practice*. Vol 17: 4: 397- 400. doi: 10.1177/1471301217743413.



Twitter @AlzScotCPP | www.uws.ac.uk/ascpp

Alzheimer Scotland Centre for Policy and Practice

Rhoda.macrae@uws.ac.uk