

#DementiaDO...the forward

by Prof Alistair Burns

Following a session hosted by NHS England at their headquarters in Leeds for NHS Change Day, Professor Alistair Burns, National Clinical Director for Dementia, NHS England said

'#DementiaDO...the basics' successfully incorporates the five key messages from Dementia Friends Information sessions and the additional learning needs of NHS staff requiring tier 1 training. This is the first time a joint package has been produced which is endorsed by both Public Health England (for Tier 1) and the Alzheimer's Society (Dementia Friends).

The training pack incorporates a variety of teaching methods, including a strong emphasis on storytelling, use of visual aids and even the opportunity for attendees to test their own memory (and drawing skills!).

The session also introduces the concept of providing 'cognitive ramps' for people with cognitive or thinking disabilities alongside 'physical ramps' for people with physical disabilities to support people with dementia to access services.

The lightbulb moment for me (one of those, "why didn't we think of that before") was the suggestion that we open up these sessions to family carers to learn alongside staff. What a great way

of improving the knowledge and understanding of all while also underlining the triangle of care and importance of involving and supporting family carers.

Andy Tysoe delivers the training with an infectious enthusiasm for his subject. He is passionate about spreading better understanding of dementia so those affected by it are supported by staff and the wider community to live well with dementia. If you attend a session you will not come away feeling the same way (and you get a Dementia Friends badge to take away too!)



Professor Alistair Burns, National Clinical Director for Dementia



Tier 1 dementia Awareness



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