

What will your Impact be?

Your support for **Improving Dementia Education and Awareness** will have a genuine impact on promoting effective dementia skills training, which will improve the quality of life for people living with dementia and their carers worldwide.

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Thank you – your support is greatly appreciated.



Vicky Baldwin, Education & Practice Consultant and Programme Lead for the Knowledge and Understanding Framework (KUF). The KUF's key goal is to improve service user experience in health and social care.

Professional Carers

Healthcare professionals at all levels tell us their work is often made more difficult because of dementia in patients admitted for other problems. This comment from one nurse is typical:

“It should be mandatory that you have some form of training if you're going to be given these patients, to understand not just what the illness is about, but ways of actually being able to nurse properly and to talk to the patient, ways of dealing with patients that you might find difficult...I think if more nurses were confident about dealing with dementia, they wouldn't shy away from it so much.”

Even health professionals who support people with dementia on a daily basis feel unprepared to meet their needs. Making dementia training and awareness materials available to informal and formal carers will improve quality of life for people with dementia.



Supporting The University of Nottingham

Campaign Office
The University of Nottingham
King's Meadow Campus
Lenton Lane
Nottingham, NG7 2NR

t: +44 (0)115 846 7213
f: +44 (0)115 951 3691
e: impactcampaign@nottingham.ac.uk
w: www.nottingham.ac.uk/impactcampaign

Improving Dementia Education and Awareness (IDEA)

One person in four over the age of 80 is likely to develop dementia

Will you help radically improve the care of people with dementia?



Health and Well-being

The issue

There are 35.6 million people living with dementia worldwide. Dementia is a complex condition and people with dementia have specialist care needs that are often not appropriately addressed.

Many family supporters, care home staff and other health and social care professionals feel inadequately trained to meet these needs. In the UK, about 2.75 million health and social care staff are caring for people with dementia, costing the economy £20 billion per year. Due to an ageing population, the number of people with dementia in the UK will double to 1.4 million by 2040.

This intensifies the need to provide easily accessible, trustworthy training materials to support these carers.

Dementia is characterised by a decline of the brain and its abilities. It can cause memory loss and personality changes. Nobody is immune, it cannot be prevented and treatments merely delay the inevitable decline.

Our solution

The University's Institute of Mental Health, working with the Open University, has successfully created an internet-based training programme for personality disorder. Launched in 2009, this has been accessed by several thousand people to date and is expected to double in 2012. Together with representatives of family carers, clinical and academic experts in dementia care have now produced the Improving Dementia Education and Awareness (IDEA) proposal, in conjunction with the Open University. This will combine up-to-date, interactive and user-friendly dementia training materials in one, internet-based educational tool to provide tailor-made training and support for carers. Information on the internet cannot always be used with confidence. Our virtual training centre will consolidate teaching materials and facilitate ongoing, systematic evaluation of materials to promote best practice. IDEA will offer online discussion and support groups – harnessing the power of social networking to support dementia carers.

“I have talked to staff in different health care organisations about caring for people with dementia and many tell me how ill-prepared they feel to tackle this major part of their job.”

Professor Amanda Griffiths, Chartered Occupational Psychologist, Institute of Work, Health & Organisations, The University of Nottingham



Scan the code to visit the Improving Dementia Education and Awareness web page where you can find out more and view our Improving Dementia Education and Awareness film on your smart phone

Our impact

Our work will ensure people with dementia receive high quality care from appropriately trained staff. Our virtual training centre will result in improved care that meets the needs and aspirations of people with dementia and helps them remain independent, active and socially engaged for longer. Provision of appropriate training and support will also benefit the caring community. Optimising professional care practices will promote dignity and compassion in caring, resulting in better services for people with dementia and their families. Supporting family carers will also reduce pressure on more costly care settings and the total cost to the economy of dementia. The virtual nature of our training centre means it will have global impact on the lives of people with dementia and their carers, perhaps most significantly in countries where dementia services are non-existent.

Family Carers

Jan is a member of the Group for Research into Dementia (GRID), who meet regularly in Nottingham to discuss their research and service development needs.

“I have been, for the last four years, the main family carer to my elderly mother, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's twelve years ago – she is now 93. Initially, I knew very little about dementia ... I had to make the telephone calls, to ask questions, to find the answers at a time when I was struggling both emotionally and practically to help an individual who, I am sure, was aware of what was happening to her but was unable to talk about it. I am convinced that family carers generally are in need of help, training and guidance to enable them to carry out their role in looking after their loved ones and in supporting them to live in their own homes for as long as possible.”

Jan,
Family carer