Dementia Care Matters Membership Scheme

Making the most of...

Knowing what person centred care looks, sounds and feels like – Training exercise

Many organisations produce mission statements that their employees are often unaware of, forgotten or at best half remembered. Often they contain meaningless jargon that bears no relation to what is most important to people with dementia.

Aims

- This exercise aims to involve as many people as people in a fun way to produce a mission statement for person centred dementia care that makes sense

Objectives

- To gain clarity within a staff team/organisation about what they are trying to ultimately achieve in providing person centred dementia care
- To focus staff/organisations on meaningful outcomes for the support of people with dementia
- A means to involve people with dementia in setting goals for the service they use

The material

This one page document poses the following statement: ‘We believe the best person-centred dementia care will LOOK LIKE/SOUND LIKE/FEEL LIKE this:’ It has five blank boxes into which responses can be written.

How to use it

- For discussion as part of supervision, team meeting or learning session
- Give everyone a copy of the material
- Ask everyone to read the statement and tell them that they are tasked individually to come up with five statements that will describe what person centred dementia care will look, sound and feel like.
- It helps if people really focus on the look, sound and feel rather than trying to come up with ‘philosophical’ or ‘strategic’ type statements
• If people get stuck as them what the people with dementia/staff/visitors would look like? What would they be saying? What would they be feeling?
• Set up to 15 minutes for people to complete this stage of the exercise
• Then ask people to pair up and compare their statements. Their task now is to agree on the three best statements they have between them. Give people up to 10 minutes to do this. They can combine or edit the statements in any way they wish, but they must only be left with three. Ask people to write these three statements on separate pieces of paper
• The pairs then group with another pair and their task is to again agree on the three best statements
• When everyone has agreed, you should be left with 12 statements on separate pieces of paper.
• Randomly lay the pieces out on the floor, one below the other. It will look like a ‘Top 12 chart list’
• You then tell the group that each of them is allowed two opportunities to move the statements up or down the ‘chart’. This can to move one statements two places up or down or two statements one place up or down.
• You may notice similarities between the statements. You can remove any duplication if you wish.
• Once everyone has made their moves, the group should have produced a top three of statements that everyone can agree on.
• These can then be used as mission statements, or as guiding principles running the service
• Share them with residents, relatives and other people connected with the service

Links

You can use this material with:

• Inspiring 50 point checklist
• ‘Achieving – real outcomes in dementia care’ by David Sheard. Available from Dementia Care Matters www.dementiacarematters.com or 01273 242335