

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE - 10 NOVEMBER 2015

SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL DEMENTIA AWARDS

ABSTRACT

This report provides information to members following Angus Council staff being runners up at a national awards ceremony in September 2015. Staff from Quality and Performance in partnership with Adult Services were honoured at Scotland's National Dementia Awards in the Best Educational Initiative.

1. BACKGROUND

In June 2011, The Scottish Government published, Promoting Excellence: A learning and development framework for all health and social services staff working with people with dementia, their families and carers. <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2011/05/31085332/0>

2. SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

Angus Council People Directorate, SVQ Assessment Centre was a finalist in Scotland's Dementia Awards. This was for Best Educational initiative: Working towards becoming a dementia informed organisation.

The SVQ assessment centre has the responsibility for supporting the Council's unqualified care staff to achieve the recognised qualifications for Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) registration for working within care services. In partnership with Adult Services and Health the SVQ Assessment Centre established a process for identifying the training requirements for staff using the national Promoting Excellence Framework developed by the Scottish Government.

Through partnership working Dementia Ambassador training was developed using the SSSC and NHS (NES) Dementia Skilled - Improving Practice Learning Resource. The assessment centre created self-assessment workbooks which were placed on the Angus Council's intranet for staff working within care environments to access. These resources were based on the Scottish Social Service Council Continuous Learning Framework Model and contained all the outcomes, knowledge and skills required for care staff. Evaluation of the learning materials showed that staff found them helpful and informative. They enabled staff to gain a deeper understanding of dementia and how to promote better outcomes for people with dementia.

The assessment centre also used the SVQ unit 3112 "Supporting individuals to identify and promote their own health and social well-being" to enable staff to demonstrate competence working with people with dementia. All staff completing this SVQ unit must complete a piece of research that can link to their work practice in the field of dementia.

One piece of research evaluated was Alzheimer Scotland's "Loss & bereavement in people with dementia". This was used within a care home to support a service user whose husband had died. She had regularly visited her husband and became distressed when the visits stopped. The care worker shared the research with the family and they followed the research advice and included mum in the funeral arrangements for her husband. The research also suggested a good visual reminder would be the "order of service" with the person's photo. This was used very successfully within the care home and we shared this good practice and the Alzheimer's Scotland information sheet with the network meetings.

Joint Dementia Ambassador and Champion network meetings were established with our Health partners to discuss any research and innovative practice to enable us to share good practice within Angus.

The assessment centre has supported staff to undertake the Dementia Champions training and now have 8 Dementia Champions, 36 Dementia Ambassadors and 15 staff have completed and are undertaking SVQ unit 3112, Evidencing their work with people with dementia.

The future priorities are to increase the numbers of staff who have the skills and knowledge for Dementia Ambassadors and Champions and to continue to share good practice examples to enhance the lives of people with dementia.

Contact for further information:
Tricia Lowe, Internal Verifier
Email: PEOPLE@angus.gov.uk