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Isle of Wight 
NHS Trust

GEANS – project background

The 'Getting Evidence into Admiral Nurse Services' (GEANS) programme aims to build Admiral Nursing teams' skills and capacity to evaluate their service, and integrate data collection and service improvement into daily clinical work. Seven teams, including Isle of Wight Admiral Nursing Service, have participated in the programme during 2016-17.

Methods

A mixed-methods evaluation design (collecting quantitative and qualitative data) was used. We have:

- recorded our caseload & activity data
- monitored our performance against KPIs
- written 2 case studies
- collected feedback from family carers and stakeholders using a survey and telephone interviews

The Isle of Wight Admiral Nursing service

We work within the island's Integrated Locality Services, managed by the Memory Service, Isle of Wight NHS Trust.

Our service is an integral part of the local dementia pathway on the Isle of Wight and we provide specialist clinical, practical and emotional support for families across the domains of the national Well Pathway for Dementia.

To be eligible for our service the person with dementia must have a formal diagnosis, be an island resident and be registered with a GP on the Isle of Wight, while their carer must be struggling to cope with the complex needs and/or behaviour that challenges of the person they care for.

Working with families

Our service aims to support families in dealing with the complexities of caring for someone with dementia, reducing the risk of crises and enabling the person with dementia to be cared for in their own home for as long as possible, where this is the preferred place of care.

Working with other professionals to support best practice

We also provide professional supportive education and liaison to individuals and support services working in the field of dementia care.

During 2016-17:



We supported 290 carers through casework

In 28% of cases we are working with multiple family member



89% of carers said they would recommend the service

96% of carers said that we provided ways of responding to and coping with changes in behaviour of the person with dementia



92% of those living with dementia we have been working with have one or more co-morbidity

Outcomes we reported on and methods used

Positive experience of Admiral Nurse service

- Carer survey
- Stakeholder interviews

Improved quality of life for families affected by dementia

- Carer survey
- Stakeholder interviews
- Case studies

Delaying and reducing the need for care and support

- Case studies
- Stakeholder interviews



The Isle of Wight Admiral Nursing Team

The families we reached

Most of the carers we worked with this year are:

- female (76%)
- the wife/husband/partner of the person with dementia (60%)
- aged 55-84 years old (74%)

The person they are caring for is:

- slightly more likely to be male (53%)
- most likely to be aged 75+ (81%)



What family carers said:

"[The Admiral Nurse] has been excellent. Could not have been more pleasant and understanding. Incredible."

"The support given by the Admiral Nurse is very different [to that of other professionals] because it helped me have an insight into the needs of my husband."

"I think I would have become more stressed and depressed had I not had an Admiral Nurse."

"I found having the support and the Admiral Nurse was very beneficial during a traumatic time."

What our stakeholders said:

"They can reduce carer stress and support the carer in their caring."

"...they can enable people to return home from hospital and stay at home longer through the support provided to carers."

"Admiral Nurses provide the family with the confidence that allows families to highlight issues and they then offer support and address problems before it become a crisis."

"It has had nothing but a positive effect on the island."

Recommendations

- Ensure ongoing evaluation and monitoring of the service, with support from Dementia UK Service Evaluation team
- Review and revise Key Performance Indicators
- Implement a method for capturing carer quality of life and ensure this is measured consistently
- Continue to develop our relationships with voluntary and statutory organisations on the island and monitor and record this activity
- Work with other organisations to identify and address gaps in the dementia pathway e.g. post diagnostic support and provision of 'lower level' support for families from other organisations