

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF AN RMN SUPPORTING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS IN DEMENTIA CARE IN ACUTE SETTINGS

MONIKA RYBACKA

Background

- People with dementia are more likely to experience unplanned admissions to hospital, which have negative consequences for them and their carers (Dewing et al. 2016).
- Healthcare professionals' are best placed to address and change these outcomes (Calnan et al. 2013).
- However poor knowledge and a lack of polices, guidance and resources impacts negatively on their attitudes and may result in a lack of person-centred and empathic care (Calnan et al. 2013; Jonas-Simpson et al. 2012).

Dementia Education

- The Dementia Core Skills Education and Training Framework is a comprehensive resource to support health and social care staff, educators and carers who work with and care for people living with dementia.
- The framework describes essential skills and knowledge necessary for all staff involved in the dementia care pathway, including:
 1. Dementia awareness
 2. Dementia identification, assessment and diagnosis
 3. Dementia risk reduction and prevention
 4. Person-centred dementia care
 5. Communication, interaction and behaviour in dementia care
 6. Health and well-being in dementia care
 7. Pharmacological interventions in dementia care
 8. Living well with dementia and promoting independence
 9. Families and carers as partners in dementia care
 10. Equality diversity and inclusion in dementia care
 11. Law, ethics and safeguarding in dementia care
 12. End of life dementia care
 13. Research and evidence-based practice in dementia care
 14. Leadership in transforming dementia care
- The framework enables organisations to standardise and improve the quality =of education and training provision across three tiers.

Aim

- The aim of this review is to explore the impact of a Registered Mental Health Nurse providing support for healthcare professionals in dementia care within acute hospitals settings.

Methods

The evaluation of a new role to support patients with dementia in the acute hospital setting: a registered mental health nurse as a Quality Improvement and Nurse Educator in Dementia.

The role involved policy writing, pathway and local strategy planning, including the writing of the Trust Dementia Strategy, care plan development and formal and informal teaching on dementia.

Results

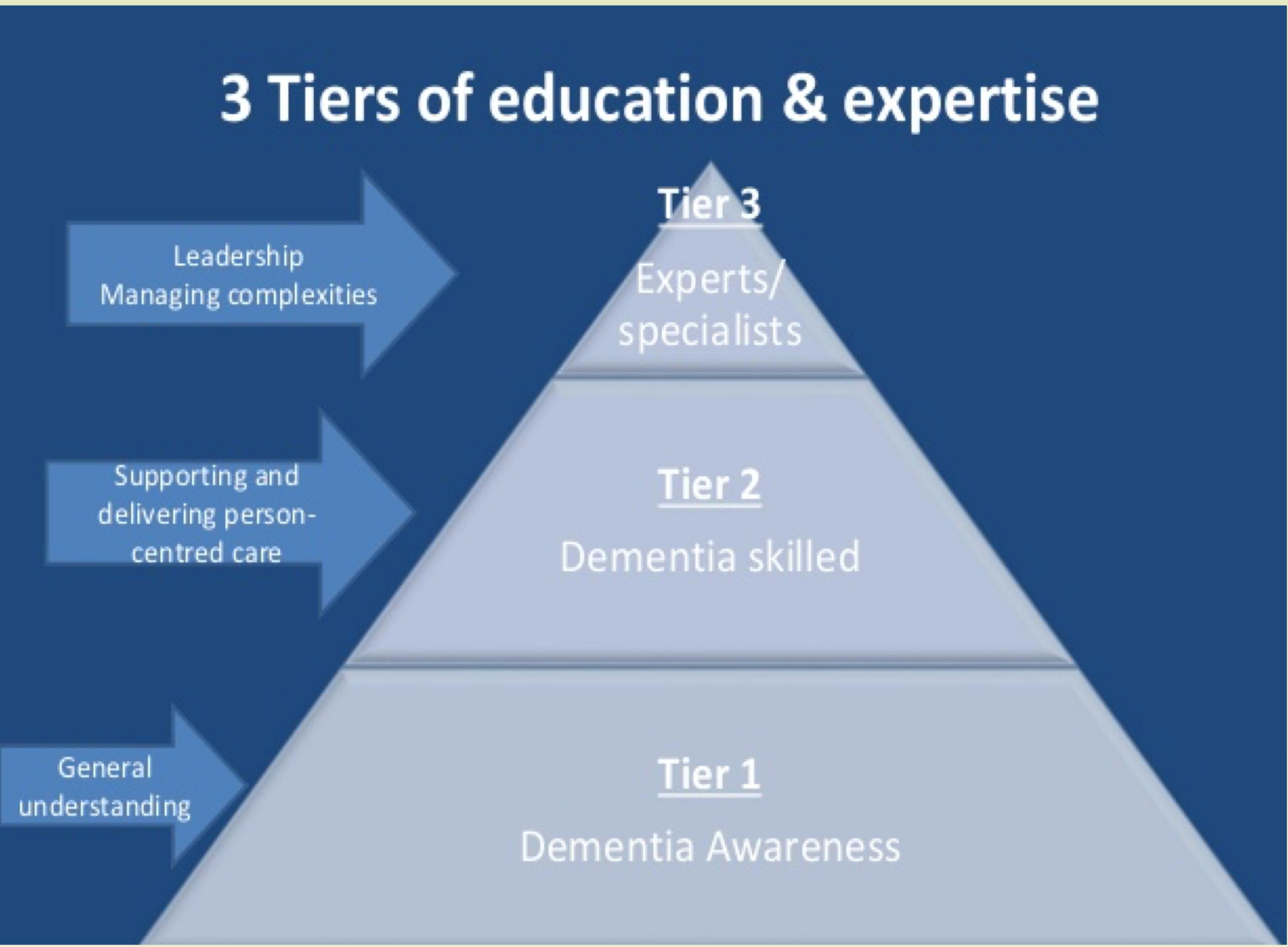
- Quantitative results have been extracted from the completion of dementia education and training and cognitive screening.
- Dementia awareness was completed by staff, and increased from 11.7 % in 2014/15 to 93.38% in 2015/16.
- The dementia training knowledge package was completed by staff increased from 0.06% in 2014/15 to 77.71% in 2015/16.
- During 2014/15 the teaching was completed via an online e-learning tool, however in 2014/15 a taught classroom package was developed and the dementia awareness was also presented for new staff on Trust induction.
- Cognitive screening across the acute hospital increased by 22.44% to 67.51% from October 2015 until November 2016.

Discussion

- The role supported the growth and development of a dementia champion network, a Dementia Café and support staff within wards to design and implement projects to improve patient experience.

Conclusion

- This fixed-term post demonstrated that a role specialising in dementia, could provide support, advice and teaching in an acute hospital setting, and improve the experience of staff, patients with dementia and their family during a hospital stay.
- The implementation of this unique role needs further exploration and evaluation, as current a consistency of training and specialist dementia roles restricts recommendations from a robust evidence-base (Brooke and Ojo 2017).



References

- Skills for Health (2015) Dementia Core Skills Education and Training Framework.
- Dewing, J., Dijk, S. (2014). What is the current state of care for older people with dementia in hospital? A literature review. Dementia doi: 10.1177/1471301213520172.
- Calnan, M.W. , Tadd, W. , Calnan, S. , Hillman, A. , Read, S. and Bayer, A. (2013), "'I often worry about the older person being in that system': exploring the key influences on the provision of dignified care for older people in acute hospitals", *Ageing and Society* , Vol. 33 No. 3, pp. 465-85
- Jonas-Simpson, C., Mitchell, G., Carson, J., Whyte, C., Dupuis, S., Gillies, J (2011) Phenomenological shifts for healthcare professionals after experiencing research-based drama on living with dementia. Journal of Advance Nursing.
- Brooke, J.M., Ojo, O. (2017) Elements of a sustainable, competent and empathetic workforce to support patients with dementia during an acute hospital stay: A comprehensive literature review. *The International Journal of Health Planning and Management* 1–16

Contact details: Monika Rybacka
Email: monika.Rybacka@uwl.ac.uk.