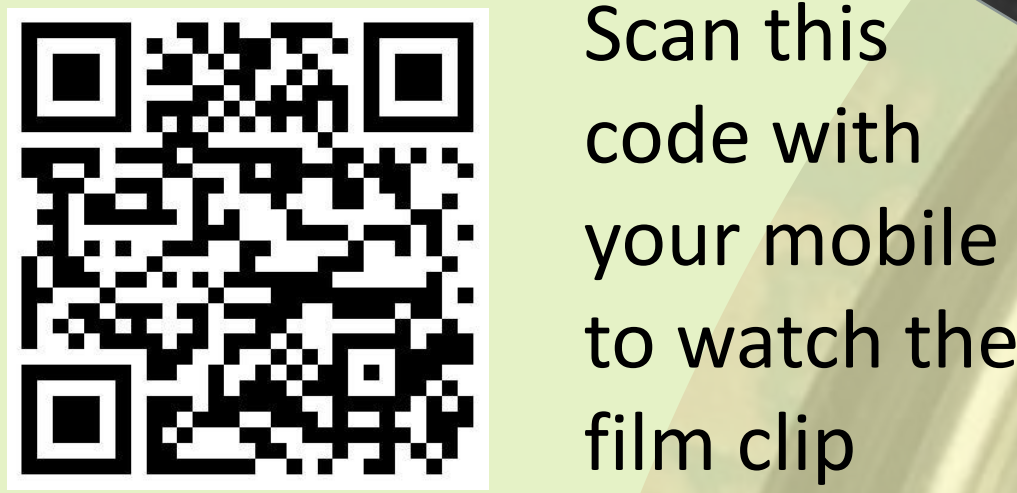


Introduction

In recent years dementia care has been a priority for Government agenda in the United Kingdom, (UK)(Great Britain Department of Health, 2013). In October the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority, Northern Ireland, called for new standards to provide activity in care homes (Miller, 2015). Occupational therapists (OT) are proven to be well placed to help staff meet the occupational needs of their clients (Brian et al, 2015). The following case analysis considers the impact a dementia training course had on the occupational engagement of people with dementia.



Scan this code with your mobile to watch the film clip

Implementing new techniques

Films were used as a training tool, in order to create empathy. One such film, Ex-Memoria (2004) showed a lady having difficulty understanding the carers objectives when assisting her with personal care. This scene reminded the carer of a lady she worked with who had limited verbal communication. The carer started using flashcards with the lady, (introduced during the training). The carer reported that the flashcards reduced the lady’s level of distress during personal care.

“I now go home and feel I have done the best for the clients”

Conclusion

The carer had improved her confidence and work satisfaction. She gave examples of when she had challenged old ways of doing things and promoted best practice.

The knowledge gained from the training appeared to change the culture of the organisation; the staff appeared more focused on the individuals’ needs. In this case analysis, the education of one person appeared to increase the occupational engagement of several people with dementia

Method

The eight week course was developed by a multidisciplinary team, and facilitated by an Occupational Therapist. The person centered content was heavily influenced by Kitwood,(1997) and 50% of the delivery was ‘modelled’ by facilitators working alongside care home residents and staff.

The course topics included;

- What is dementia?
- Person centered practice
- Communication
- Occupation and engagement
- Physical Health
- Behaviour that challenges

One participant gave consent to be interviewed. Her interview was recorded eight weeks post-training to determine how the training had influenced her practice. Consent was gained to publish the findings.

Promoting meaningful occupation



“One of our ladies now sets the table, she loves feeling helpful”



During the training carers were encouraged to complete comprehensive life histories by gathering information from the residents’ family and friends. The carer described how this influenced day service activities.

Meaningful occupation

“We plan to get a wicket for one gentleman who played cricket”

“One Gentleman would become disorientated and distressed in the afternoon.”



“He wanted reassurance he was going home”

She put pictures of his taxi on the day service clock. The care plan stated he should be offered his favourite seat, in full view of the clock. This intervention allowed the gentlemen to organise his time.

Person centered care plans

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