Project Title: Care Home Dementia Intervention Team

1. Brief Outline of the Problem

What are we trying to accomplish?

The Care Home Dementia Intervention Team was set up to offer an enhanced service to people living with Dementia in care homes who are suffering from “stress or distress”. The service has taken the principles of the Newcastle Model derived from the work of Dr Ian James and adapted it to the needs of Cwm Taf residents. We offer holistic assessments within the care home and provide collaboratively based formulations to deliver a range of psychosocial interventions in order to alleviate the stress that often ends in placement breakdown.

4. Effects of Changes

What did your tests of change do? (PDSA)

Using the Doll therapy and role modelling with a resident, who was perceived as challenging, has helped to reduce the need for prescribing further medication and prevented placement breakdown.

The resident is now much more engaging with staff and her days are spent productively looking after the doll. We were able to reduce patient/resident/carers stress, increase carers knowledge and reduce the likelihood of breakdown in placement i.e: admission to hospital, change of care home and reduced the need for referral to CMHT

2. Measurement for Improvement

How will we know a change is an improvement?

The formulation is used to develop an individual intervention programme (up to 12 weeks. The assessment and review process, which includes various pre and post measures including the Neuropsychiatric Inventory, Bradford Wellbeing Profile and Family Satisfaction Questionnaire will enable us to measure:

- Individual stress/distress
- Carers Stress/knowledge
- Family stress

Working closely with staff we will be able to role model interventions and observe closely for changes.

3. Strategy for Change

What changes can we make that will result in improvement?

Using non pharmacological interventions we aim to reduce the need for anti psychotic prescribing by using interventions that can have a positive effect on the persons mood, wellbeing and behaviour by meeting their needs. Interventions include:

- Doll Therapy
- Life story work and reminiscence
- Guidance on environmental adaptation
- Psycho education for caregivers
- Increasing occupation /stimulation- including use of sensory equipment and therapeutic use of music
- Role modelling
- Validation Therapy

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