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#400WORDS – KNOWLEDGE + ACTION

## Introduction of Tier 2 Dementia Training to Cornwall's Health and Care System

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### Background

The UK Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia 2020 (Department of Health, 2015) aimed to establish England as the flagship country for high quality care and support for People Living with Dementia (PLwD), their families and carers. Training was targeted for all health and social care staff with the aim that a dementia educated workforce will lead to an improved quality of life for PLwD. To facilitate health and social care sectors deliver dementia education, the Dementia Training Standards Framework was established (Skills for Health, Health Education England and Skills for Care, 2018), this sets out a three-tiered approach to dementia training (Table 1).

Table1: Dementia Training Standards Framework tiered training model

Tier	Relevant to who
1	For all health and social care staff - Dementia awareness 30-minute e-Learning.
2	For staff who come into regular contact with PLwD, their families or carers twelve core subjects, each with multiple learning criteria.
3	For enhancing the knowledge of clinical experts - Level 7 (Masters) modules.

This paper reports the results of a new evidence informed Tier 2 training pilot.

### Implementing evidence informed training

The DEMTRAIN study created and published a best practice model for dementia training in hospitals and across neighbourhoods (Ahmed et al., 2020, Neighbourhoods and Dementia, 2020). The County's multi-organisational dementia alliance, which includes health and social care organisations; volunteering and patient groups, including memory café representatives; police and fire service; and representatives from the Alzheimer's Society and Healthwatch, supported recommendations to implement, beyond health and

social care, a new Tier 2 training programme based on findings from the DEMTRAIN Study. Four training sessions have been delivered and evaluated.

## Results

Training reached 206 people from a wide variety of sectors including the Council, GP surgeries, Age UK, Alzheimer’s Society, home care agencies, care homes and NHS Trusts. Evaluation of the sessions was positive (see figure 1) with 98% recommending the training to colleagues.

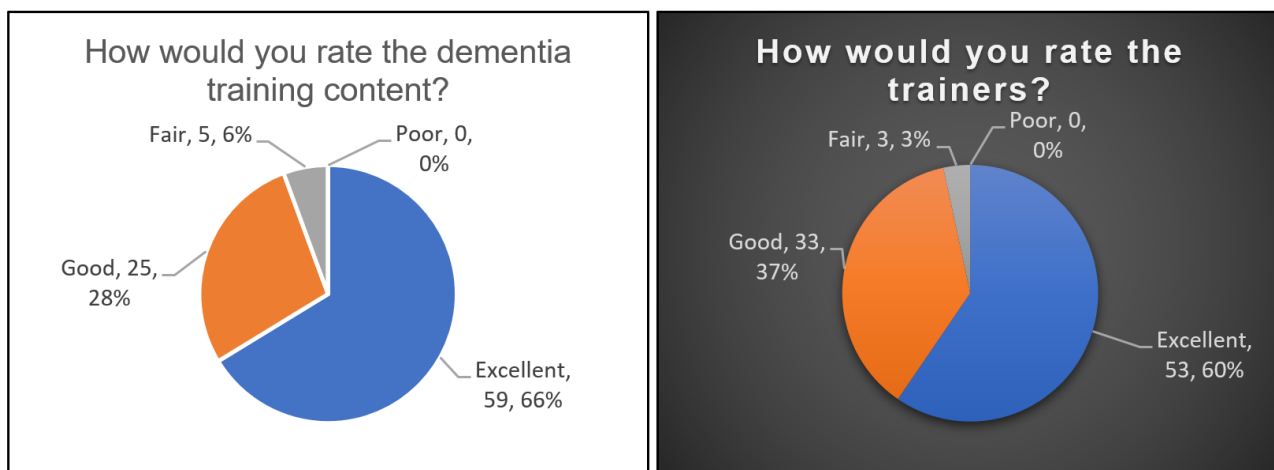


Figure 1: participant feedback graphs

One participant fed back on the training:

*“It was all excellent and thought provoking. I found it useful there were people from all backgrounds attending, as it gave so many different perspectives. The trainers were all very engaging and the course was very well delivered, thank you”*

One session was audited against the Tier 2 subject content by an independent assessor and demonstrated the session met all twelve criteria (Table 2).

Table2: Audit outcome of session content delivered against Tier 2 content standards.

Tier 2 dementia training subject areas	% of learning outcome met
Dementia identification, assessment and diagnosis	100%
Dementia risk reduction and prevention	100%
Person-centred dementia care	100%
Communication, interaction and behaviour in dementia care	100%
Health and well-being in dementia care	100%
Pharmacological interventions in dementia care	100%
Living well with dementia and promoting independence	100%
Families and carers as partners in dementia care	100%
Equality diversity and inclusion in dementia care	100%
Law, ethics and safeguarding in dementia care	100%
End of life dementia care	100%
Research and evidence-based practice in dementia care	100%

## Discussion

The training pilot demonstrated positive outcomes for a wide range of people receiving it. The Tier 2 programme has now been adopted by the County's health and social care sector, with open access to communities and other sector participants, helping to address the widening participation ambition of the County's multi-organisational dementia alliance. Plans to strengthen the involvement of PLwD, their families as co-facilitators of training study day are scheduled.

## Conclusion

An impactful, evidence-based Tier 2 dementia training programme has been developed, implemented, evaluated and now adopted across the county.

## Declaration of interest

Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust was a study site contributing to the DEMTRAIN study.

## References

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