Enhancing the Healing Environment for Patients with Dementia

“Yorkshire Outdoors”
21st September 2011
It can’t be easy to be healed in a soulless concrete box with characterless windows inhospitable corridors and purely functional wards. The spirit needs healing as well as the body.’

HRH The Prince of Wales
President of the Kings Fund
PROJECT AIMS

- To develop a high quality, design led project with a true feeling for what people with dementia and their families actually want and need.
- To consult with local people, patients carers, groups and charities to make sure we got this right
- To make striking physical improvements of the highest quality by the use of colour, light, art and design.
- To use colour to aid way finding and orientation in the ward environment.
PROJECT AIMS

- To use reminiscence media including art work, digital images from the Yorkshire Film Archive and objects to personalise patients bed spaces.
- Install dynamic lighting to aid circadian rhythm’s
- Create a reminiscence café for patients & their families
- To explore functional, practical ways to Enhance the Healing Environment by engaging with the patients, service users & staff.
PROJECT LOCATION

- Orthopaedic Trauma
- Elderly Care

- OUTDATED
- CLUTTERED
- DULL

- MODERN
- but......
- SOULLESS
HOW DID WE GET THERE?

- Consultation with Service Users, Carers & Community Groups throughout
- Chose & stuck to a theme (Yorkshire Outdoors)
- Focused on way finding, ownership of personal space & reminiscence work
- Appointed acclaimed local designer
- Partnered with Yorkshire Film Archive
- Held a photograph competition open to the public to develop a Yorkshire image library
SOcial Space

- Projectors showing Yorkshire Film Archive footage
- Cinema style seating forming a social space for patients use
- Developed a reminiscence café for patients & carers away from the clinical area of the ward
YORKSHIRE FILM ARCHIVE
Produced sample colour boards for patients, visitors & staff to select colourways.

With the guidance of a colour consultant appropriate colours for use with older people were selected.

Mood boards produced to:

- Demonstrate visual zoning via colour
- Highlight specific areas e.g. toilets
- Use colour to assist way finding
BED BAYS

- Bed bays colour coded
- Personal memory display boxes at each bed
ARTWORK & SIGNAGE

- Dementia friendly signage
- Sustainable, seasonal, changeable media.
- Simply refreshed images
- Develop library of images & objects that reflect Bradford's multicultural society
ARTWORK DESIGN FEATURES

- Slide frame wall artwork
- 35mm ‘Kodak’ slide light boxes
REMINISCENCE

- Encourage use of reminiscence
- Aid communication & stimulation through:-
  - AV installations
  - Reminiscence objects
  - Volunteers engaging in reminiscence sessions on the wards
SUSTAINABILITY

- Engage patients, visitors & staff in ownership of images & objects
- Use of ward donations to maintain image & object library & allocate funds from annual ward budget
- Future project plan evaluating ritualistic nursing care to release time to embrace the project
- Maintain support of “The Friends of BRI”
OUTCOMES

- Provide innovative positive experience & increased confidence for all

- Accidents & incidents of challenging behaviours reduced by redesign & refurbishment
A BALANCING ACT

- Provide a dementia friendly environment with dignified comfortable spaces
- Heighten awareness of Dementia in a positive way
- Become an exemplar for future Trust projects