



### Case study

*Person A has dementia and visits a community day centre. Over time they start to display increasing sexualised behaviour towards Person B, a volunteer. How should the day centre staff respond?*

1. How does volunteer feel about it?
2. Does the person with dementia have a carer? If so, is the behaviour typical? What is the best way to broach the subject? Are there triggers? Minimise risk.
3. Where is the behaviour taking place?
4. What is the behaviour? Verbal? Physical? Just this volunteer or general?
5. Support available to volunteer and person with dementia?
6. What training / support is available for volunteer: who does volunteer speak to?
7. What are the safeguarding policies? Should a safeguarding alert be raised?
8. Guilt – how to best deal with it, with person with dementia / volunteer / carer / day centre.
9. Use as springboard for discussion / training? Was training sufficient?
10. Meeting to discuss – family / Health Care Professionals – alternatives?

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### Case study

*Person A and Person B both have dementia and are living in a care home. They are both married and their partners still live at home. A and B start an intimate relationship that appears to be consensual from both people. Their partners are unaware of this. What should the care home do?*

- Formation of close relationships is natural
- Be truthful and transparent – but can they?
- Important that we know about people's relationship → perspectives of different relations
- What do people see as the status of the relationship?
- Capacity and understanding
- Consequences of stopping it
- What would people think if it was the other way around?
- If person doesn't have capacity sharing it may be important - be selective and sensitive about who you share this with and how
- Giving people space and privacy
- Use all ways of communicating to explore the situation → don't ignore it or try to covertly separate people Staff to be trained on issues of sexuality
- Don't make assumptions about what is happening
- What is intimate?

## Case Study

*Person A and Person B are both single adults living in a care home and have dementia.*

*They start an intimate relationship that appears to be consensual from both people.*

*What is the role of the care home?*

Seek first to understand.

- Issue of confidentiality
  - Is this a confidential issue?
- Care Home focus: - is it consensual? → should support with decision
  - Is it safe?
  - Is it doing harm?
- Care Home responsibility to the individual (but do they have any responsibilities to the spouse??) → no

1. Check harm / safety to individuals

2. If harmful / affecting safety

If not harmful –

Raise safeguarding with Local Authority

Do not break confidentiality by informing partners →  
record in notes

3. Monitor the ongoing capacity / consent

