HEE continues to lead on the delivery of the national dementia education and training requirements outlined by the Department of Health’s (DH) Mandate to HEE and the Prime Minister’s 2020 Challenge on Dementia. In response to the ‘Challenge’, HEE is pleased to report that over 1 million staff in NHS hospitals have received dementia awareness training since 2012 and that there is a sustained growth in more in-depth dementia education and training.

If you design, deliver or commission dementia education and training programmes, we would like to draw your attention to the refreshed Dementia Training Standards Framework (previously known as the Dementia Core Skills Education and Training Framework). This Framework provides the ‘industry standard’ in relation to learning outcomes across the different tiers of training. HEE has worked in partnership with Skills for Health, Skills for Care and subject matter experts to update the Framework in relation to nutrition, hydration, oral health and its relevance to the housing sector.

If you are looking for a robust tier 2 training package, or ideas to refresh existing programmes, our new simulation training ‘Dementia and Learning Through Simulation’ (DEALTS 2) comes complete with materials to enable you to deliver in-house. DEALTS was commissioned from Bournemouth University, and covers three of the fourteen Framework subject areas – communication, prevention and person centred care. This resource can be found alongside our other materials on the HEE webpages all of which are free of charge. It is a ‘train the trainer’ package, so is best delivered by an experienced facilitator.

As part of the Leeds Beckett University ‘What Works’ longitudinal research, HEE commissioned a quality assurance audit tool (DeTDAT). This is aimed at those delivering, designing or commissioning dementia training to enable them to:

- assess whether the training they deliver/commission complies with current best practice guidance;
- review and update existing training in line with best practice guidelines;
- help inform the design and delivery of new training programmes to increase likelihood of successful outcomes; to support organisations to undertake self-assessments in line with best training practice;
- inform decisions around the commissioning of future training to ensure this is in line with best practice guidance around likely qualities for successful outcomes and thus represents good value for money.

We wish to encourage you to review your current education using this tool. We have used the tool to review the material on our webpages.

Further resources to support tier 2 are in the pipeline and will be available shortly. This includes a resource to support the ‘Finding Patience’ films. This will enable organisations to extend the key learning points from the films to meet tier 2 training requirements. A further
resource will explore the learning outcomes for tier 2 in more detail and will signpost to useful resources available within the system to address each area.

If you would like further information about HEE’s work, please visit HEE webpages or contact: jan.zietara@hee.nhs.uk HEE, Dementia Education and Training Project Manager

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