



Alzheimer Scotland
Action on Dementia

Beyond Barriers

*Developing a palliative care
approach to care for people
with dementia*

Jenny Henderson

Setting the scene.....



What do we mean by Palliative Care?

'The active total care of patients whose disease is not responsive to curative treatment.' (WHO)

'Control of pain, symptoms, and of psychological, social and spiritual problems is paramount.

The goal of palliative care is the achievement of the best quality of life for patients and their families'
(WHO)



Three ways people with dementia die

1. With a medical condition that is not related to dementia at any stage of the illness
2. Complex mix of mental and physical problems where dementia is not the primary cause of death
3. Complications arising from end stage dementia (Cox and Cook 2002)





Malcolm and Barbara Pointon

'You matter because you are
you.....to the last moment
of your life, and we will do
all we can, not only to help
you die peacefully, but to
live until you die'

Dame Cecily

Saunders Mission Statement St
Christopher's Hospice



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Central to all care

How we
communicate
And
What we
communicate
about



Challenges facing the care homes

- ❑ Accessing affordable, high quality locally delivered training
- ❑ High turnover of staff
- ❑ An increasingly frail population
- ❑ High numbers of people with dementia



The time was right :

- ❑ An acceptance that palliative care has much to offer people with non curative illnesses other than cancer



- ❑ *'Lighting up Lives'* highlighting the unmet palliative care needs for people with end stage dementia
- ❑ *'Making Good Care Better'*
- ❑ *'Joined up thinking joined up care'.....*
- ❑ The Care Commission's drive to create specialist champions in care homes
- ❑ The Care Home Learning Network

The Aims of the Beyond Barriers Project

- ❑ Will be to develop current care practice by supporting staff and relatives to meet the palliative care needs of people with dementia.
- ❑ Communication will be at the heart of the project

There will be :-

- ❑ An education programme
- ❑ Relatives will have an equal opportunity to participate
- ❑ Staff for whom English is not their first language will be able to fully participate in the course

Education programme



Day 1. Communication and the person with dementia

Day 2. Communication and end of life issues

Day 3. Communication and relatives



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Following on from the education programme there will be: -

- ❑ Support to enable care home staff and relatives to influence the practice of other staff within their care home
- ❑ Support to enable care home staff and relatives use their learning in practice

How the project will work will work

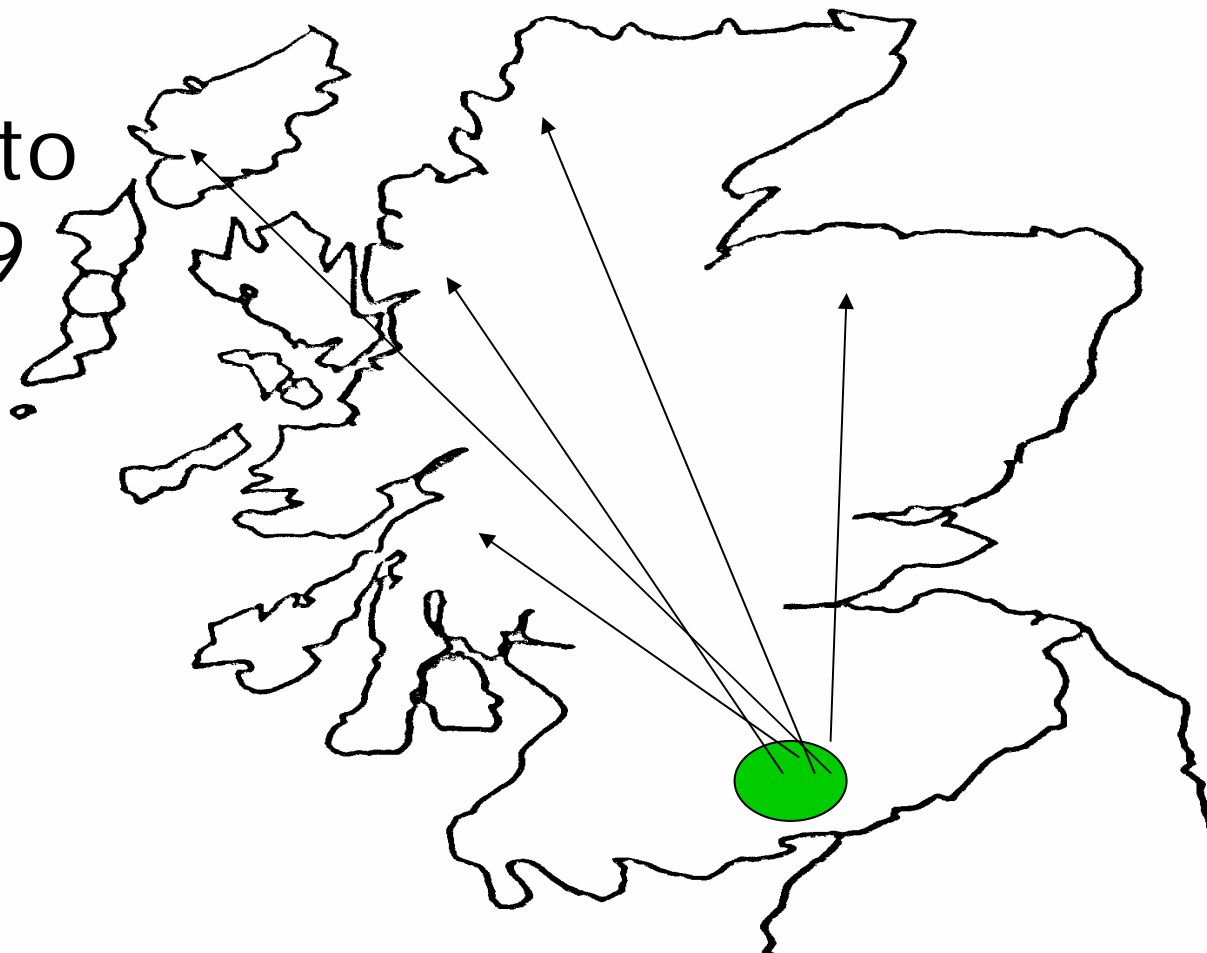


The pilot phase will take place in Dumfries and Galloway

April to November 2007

Roll out Phase

November to
March 2009





The Dementia Services
Development Centre

Evaluation

To be completed by The
Dementia Services
Development Centre





To send out a message to all people with dementia that whatever the stage of the illness they can have confidence that every effort is being made to meet their needs