

Background

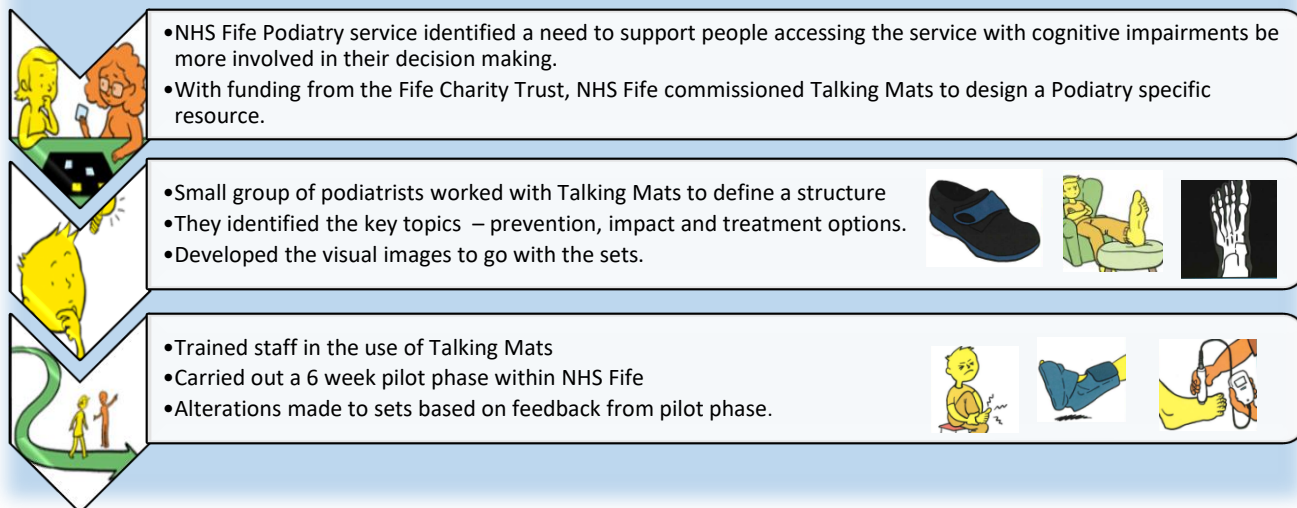
The ability for individuals to make decisions related to their care is enshrined in law. This is no different for people living with dementia, however, for some this can be more challenging as the disease progresses.

Talking Mats Ltd is a social enterprise which improves the lives of people with communication difficulties by increasing their capacity to think about and express views about things that matter to them. Research shows use of Talking Mats improves both the quality and quantity of information gained.

Common Features of dementia impacting communication:

- Difficulties with comprehension and verbal expression
- Reading and writing
- Retention and memory

Development



Resource in Action

- 60 year old woman with learning disability and dementia, lives independently with one hour daily support.
- Known to podiatry due to repeated ulcerations.
- Specialist footwear in place.
- The woman in response to questions will always say everything is fine – she doesn't like to cause a fuss.
- The Talking Mat showed that she was struggling with the dressing and she was in pain.

Action

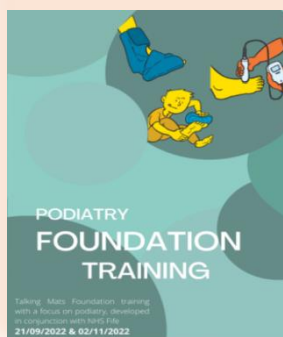
- Change dressing so it took less space in shoe.
- Prescribed regular pain relief.

Outcome

- Improved patient wellbeing and satisfaction.
- Podiatrist able to action appropriate treatment.
- Patient had been fully involved in the decision making by use of Talking Mats.

Next Steps

Following the successful implementation of the resource in NHS Fife, the podiatry team and Talking Mats have collaborated to create a training resource for podiatrists. This will enable the resource to be used out with Fife and allowing others to benefit.



Information on the training can be found by scanning the QR code below.

