Creating dementia friendly GP surgeries

Overview
There is still societal stigma associated with dementia, and many primary care teams have never received any formal training or education on this subject. Education, understanding and action can all help to address the fear that exists around dementia.

For patient-facing staff in primary care it is helpful for them to have a set of tools they can use to connect with patients with diminished communication and comprehension skills.

iSPACE plugs this gap, and improves the patient experience for people with dementia and their carers.

Results / impacts
Within two years, 50% of Wessex GP surgeries completed the steps to become dementia friendly. 153 surgeries are now dementia friendly.

2,969 surgery staff have received dementia training and a further 244 people have received talks about dementia and the project.

This is impacting on over 15,000 people living with dementia via surgeries that are caring for over 1.4 million people.

One year after implementing iSPACE, there has been a 16% increase in dementia diagnosis rates in surveyed surgeries, a 70% increase in memory screening in surveyed surgeries, and a 26% increase in carer identification in surveyed surgeries.

The AHSN’s role
iSPACE was originally designed and developed by Hampshire GP, Dr Nicola Decker, with support from Wessex AHSN. The AHSN then adopted it as a formal programme from 2014 to 2017.

The AHSN led the implementation, training, spread and adoption of the project.

Adoption and spread
From April 2018, iSPACE has been formally handed over to the region’s clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) to continue to implement and sustain for the benefit of their local populations.

Find out more
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All resources, including training materials and impact report, are available at: www.wessexahsn.org.uk/ispace