What does SCIE do?

- Independent national charity
- Identify and spread knowledge about good practice in social care – adults, children, families in the UK
- Support delivery of transformed personalised services - practitioners, managers & sector leadership
What does SCIE do?/2

- Ensure experience and expertise of people using services reflected in our work

- Increasingly, how health and social care work together to enable best outcomes.
Why did SCIE develop the Dementia Gateway?

- Ageing population in Europe and the rising number of people with dementia
- The nature of the social care workforce in the UK – low pay, low status
- The challenge of improving training and raising standards of dementia care.
Accessing the Gateway

www.scie.org.uk/dementia
Dementia Gateway

If you work with people with dementia in nursing, residential or domiciliary settings we hope you will find this website useful. There are lots of practical tips, tools and activities in the sections below that will help you with your daily work. Each section has been written by a national dementia expert so you can be sure the information and guidance is up to date and reflects what we know about best practices in dementia care. Come back often as we’ll be updating the site regularly.
Getting to know the person with dementia

Section editor: Professor Dawn Brooker, Director of the University of Worcester Association for Dementia Studies
Read more about Dawn Brooker

1. Understanding dementia
   By understanding the experience of dementia we can communicate more effectively.

2. Getting the communication going
   A range of skills to improve communication with people with dementia.

3. Getting to know me
   Using positive memories and feelings to engage with people.

4. Communication in the later stages of dementia
   Getting to know someone with advanced dementia.

5. Exploring spiritual needs
   Understanding a person’s spiritual beliefs is vital to connecting with them.

6. Working with families
   Issues and support for families at home and in care homes

Dementia can make it more difficult to communicate with others. As dementia progresses it becomes harder for a person to tell others about themselves and to understand what others are saying to them. This leads to people feeling cut off and isolated.

Explore the links above to help you expand your skills and knowledge as a carer, professional or volunteer.
Getting to know the person with dementia

Understanding dementia

Key messages

- Each person is different, and the way a person reacts to their dementia will be shaped by their personality and personal history.

- Dementia is caused by damage to the brain which gets worse over time.

- People with dementia are dealing with a disability that is hidden from view: this is confusing and difficult for the person with dementia and those around them, and can put up a barrier to getting to know the person.

- If you understand the most common difficulties that people with dementia struggle with, you will be better able to understand the person you want to get to know.

Explore the links below now to read more about this topic:

1. Introduction

2. The person remains
Social Care TV dementia films

- Living with young onset dementia
- Dementia and end of life care
- Participation in dementia care planning
- Rapidly declining early-onset dementia
- Late onset dementia: diagnosis and drug treatment
- Living in a care home: a positive outcome for a person with dementia
- Providing care at home for people with dementia
- The causes of dementia
User involvement at SCIE

‘We recognise the central role of people who use services, children, young people, their families and their carers, and we aim to ensure their experience and expertise is reflected in all aspects of our work’
User involvement at SCIE (2)

- Advisory groups, interview panels, trainers and consultants, board members
- Partnerships with user-led organisations
- Within staff group
- Good practice products
- Partners Council

‘..to ensure that SCIE’s work reflects the needs of people in the social care sector, in particular service users and carers’
User involvement in the Gateway

‘Treat me as a person and help me stay independent. Respect my wishes and remember that this is a disease over which I will have little control’

- Topic selection
- Quotes
- Testing with carers
Knowledge transfer and improving practice

- Joint project between SCIE and PSSRU
- In an ideal world....but in the real world...
- Emerging messages:
  - Consider the end user
  - Tailored key messages
  - Format
Knowledge transfer and improving practice (2)

- Emerging messages cont:
  - Demand
  - Intermediaries
  - Constraints
  - Co-production
  - Supporting implementation