



**A Report on the Initiative of  
Implementing The Older People's  
Champion within the School of  
Nursing & Midwifery  
at De Montfort University**



**Introduction**

The Older People's Champion training is embedded within NRMW 2200 : Nursing Approaches to Enablement. This module is a shared module for pre-registration Diploma and BSc ( Hons ) semester 5 nursing students. This module explores knowledge, practice and attitudes that underpin the principles of nursing approaches to enablement by promoting assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation resulting in the enhancement of health care. The module facilitates the practice of inter professional working to meet the patient's / clients needs and its carers within a multicultural society. The module has been developed with clinical practitioners and the Acting Head of Services for Older people.

**Context**

The module focuses on many aspects of enablement ; individualising enablement, teaching, social policy, disability, models and theories, conditions such as osteoarthritis, Parkinson's Disease, issues such as falls prevention, discharge planning and clinical skills – including aspects of adaptation, continence and sensory impairment.

In light of the aging population and increasing morbidity a majority of the patients that the students will be nursing will be older. As part of professional updating Cheryl Utecht ( Programme Leader ) and myself attended an Older People's Training Session held within the University Hospitals of Leicester. This session fits ideally within the module



## **The Training**

The training is part of the National Older People's Champion network initiative. Issues such as how older people perceive themselves in society, how older people like to be thought of and some of the actions that nurses implement to improve or enhance an older person's stay in hospital are addressed. The training includes scenarios in relation to feeding, dignity and communication amongst others.

Students as part of the module will have the opportunity to participate in the training and 'sign up' to be an Older People's Champion.

## **Implementation**

Before being able to implement the training, there was a stipulation that School staff received training also and therefore a session was held and a School of Nursing & Midwifery Champion Structure formulated and adopted ( currently being reviewed due to a change in personnel ), at present the Head of School is an Executive Champion, Nick Salter a Divisional Champion with Lead Older People's Champions being Penny Tremayne and Cheryl Utecht. Other lecturing staff are also trained as Older People's Champions. This structure is useful for students as they can report concerns that they have encountered to an identifiable member of staff. The Older People's Champion training is part of a whole day, where students rotate around sessions on ; Ageism and Dementia. Updates regarding the Older People's Champion will be uploaded onto the module Blackboard site and there is a notice



board in the main building featuring current news. Students will receive a number of benefits such as receiving a newsletter, being trained and therefore not having to repeat training on qualifying and ultimately enhancing and improving care for the older person.

**Cohorts trained**

To date the following adult branch cohorts have been trained as Older People's Champions ; 0701,0709 and 0801,0809, 0901, 0909 and 1001.

**Publication**

Journal articles have been published in the *Nursing Older People* journal.

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