



National Dementia Dialogue 2015

[NationalDementiaDialogue2015ConsultationPaper@gov.scot](mailto:NationalDementiaDialogue2015ConsultationPaper@gov.scot)

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To whom it may concern

for nurses with around 420,000 members, of which around 40,000 are in Scotland. Nurses and health care support workers make up the majority of those working in health services

objectives.

The RCN welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation. We have focused this response on some of the themes raised within the consultation paper which are relevant to our members. (.)-4(1u)14(sed.E496 60 0 1 72.024 306.99 Tm[ ])TJET EMC 8P 4MCID 164ETBT/F2 11.04

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The *Triangle of Care – carers included: A guide to best practice for dementia care in Scotland*<sup>6</sup> is one practical tool which was co-designed by carers, people with dementia and practitioners to help professionals and commissioning organisations put overarching dementia policies into context in order to provide better and more person-centred care for people with dementia. It describes a therapeutic relationship between the person with dementia, staff member and carer that promotes safety, supports communication and sustains wellbeing. As the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dementia Strategy continues the work of improving staff knowledge and skills, this tool can help to embed dementia-appropriate approaches.

While the paper notes the significant role of allied health professionals in supporting implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dementia Strategy, nurses and health care support workers are the biggest health workforce and play an enormously important role in the care of people with dementia. To ensure people with dementia receive the best possible care, the new dementia strategy should consider the broad requirements of the nursing workforce with regard to training and dementia friendly environments and working processes in which to practice.

In particular, as better approaches to dementia care and support enable more people to live at home, more people with dementia will access district nursing services. As such, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dementia Strategy should take into account the report and recommendations of the Chief , due to report in April.

### **Acute general hospital care**

Access to dementia specialist nurses in an acute setting can deliver substantial benefits for people with dementia and their families<sup>7</sup> where the specialist role

