

Peace of Mind Project  
Assistive Technology  
Loan Service, Solihull

Supporting people with  
dementia locally



Developing,  
implementing and  
evaluating an  
Assistive Technology  
Loan Service for  
People Living with  
Dementia

# What is it?

## **Peace of Mind Project**

The Peace of Mind Project has been established by the Alzheimer's Society in Solihull to enable residents living with dementia to have access to assistive technology without expensive up-front costs.

# National Dementia Strategy



urges commissioners to

“consider the options to prolong independent living” by improving “community personal support services” stating a comprehensive service should include assistive technologies (DoH 2009:48)

# Finding the Right Solution

- One size doesn't fit all
- Window of time when most effective could be small.
- Can be expensive

# Person with dementia

“ It is our right to be able to enjoy our freedom, for as long as possible, and if that means using assistive technology, then go ahead.

Many of these gadgets are very expensive and this alone puts many people off, as many cannot afford to spend this amount of money when there is no one locally who can give support and help when needed.”

(Alzheimer's Society 2011:1)

# Funding

One off grant from Solihull Care Trust

Part of a wider range of support to include

- Equipment for Dementia and Memory Cafes
- Information resources: books, DVDs
- iPad

# Evidence for equipment chosen

- Information Sheets previously developed
- atdementia website
- Ongoing enquiry into evidence based practice

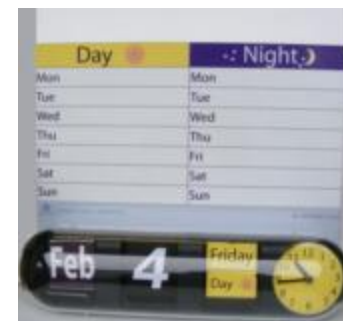
# Procedures

- Loan Agreement
- Consent Forms
- Procedure for buying equipment
- Procedure for loaning equipment
- General risk assessment

# Equipment in Loan Service

## Clocks and watches

- Clock calendars
- Day / night capsule clocks
- Talking LCD alarm clocks
- Talking watches
- Talking calendar clocks



# Equipment in Loan Service

## Telephones

- Picture phone
- Dial pad
- Easy to use mobile phones



## Locators



## Equipment in Loan Service

### Memory aids

- Memo minders
- Vocal memory aid



### Medication Dispensers



# Equipment in Loan Service

Other items available:

- One Button Radio
- Bed, door and chair exit sensors
- Talking mats
- One off, bespoke solutions

# Evaluation of the Training of Support Workers provided by Coventry University

# Evaluation – purpose

- Design and deliver a bespoke AT training workshop programme in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society Midlands Central team
- Analyse and evaluate the impact of the workshop programme on key staff and their AT practice
- Provide recommendations to support service development

# Evaluation - method

- Two workshops were delivered approximately 12 weeks apart Feb-May 11
  - Dementia advisors, advocates and dementia support workers, two managers
- Launch of AT loan service March 2011

# Evaluation - method

## Workshop 1

- Increase awareness of equipment range
- Select appropriate equipment focussing on person centred needs and features of AT
- Product showcase
- Use of exploratory case studies
- Setting and recording personal learning goals to work on between workshops

[Reminder email to participants at week 6]

## Workshop 2

- Feedback on reflections of personal learning goal attainment
- Identify the barriers and enablers within the workplace
- Evaluate the overall learning experience
- Product showcase

# Evaluation – findings (1)

## Workshop 1

- All learning outcomes achieved for all staff  
e.g.
  - Better understanding of AT Loan Service, range of AT, identification of key principles of use of AT, exploration of AT solutions, personal learning objectives identified

# Evaluation – findings (2)

## Workshop 2

- All applicable learning outcomes met
  - Used knowledge and understanding following workshop 1
  - Explored AT solutions with service users/carers
  - Reflected on learning experiences as part of workshops
- “I have helped 4 clients to access AT”

# Goals setting

- Of 15 goals identified
  - 6 goals were fully met
  - 5 were partly met
  - 4 were not met
- The overall success in terms of partly and fully met goals was 11/15 (71%)
- Goal attainment varied with one participant scoring 5/6 and two participants scoring 2/6
- Participants averaged approximately 3/6 of their goals.

# Evaluation

## Enablers

- Strong links established with other local organisations
- A member of staff with a greater knowledge about AT

## Barriers

- Time to achieve goals
- Time to investigate AT solutions
- A lack of dedicated staffing to project

# Feedback

- I feel more able to help my clients to find solutions to everyday concerns i.e. safety, medication
- It has increased my knowledge of AT and therefore increased my confidence in talking about equipment to clients
- More aware of issues with approaching AT with clients, it has helped to keep AT 'on my radar'
- Been able to reflect on existing knowledge
- I will be more confident to talk about AT and feel more supported in doing so

# What next?

## **Evaluation of Service**

- In house - questionnaire
- As part of research project – gathering qualitative data from people with dementia and their carers.

# References

- Alzheimer's Society (2011) *Alzheimer's Society Position Paper on Assistive Technology*. [on line] available from [http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/download\\_info.php?fileID=1098&categoryID=200128](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?fileID=1098&categoryID=200128)
- Department of Health (2009) *Living well with dementia: A National Dementia Strategy*. London: Stationery Office

Any questions?