



Cultural Prescription

Creating dementia friendly places and spaces

Ward 37 – York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust



Ward 37

Medical and Mental Health Assessment Ward

York Hospital



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Ward 37 York Hospital

- Opened 20 years ago
- 21 beds
- Male and female
- Average length of stay 24 days



Dementia in the UK

- 25 – 40% of all inpatients in UK hospitals have dementia
- Up to 60% of older people in hospital have confusion / cognitive impairment
- There are 850,000 people with dementia in the UK
- There are 40,000 younger people with dementia in the UK
- There will be 1 million people with dementia in the UK by 2025
- There are 670,000 carers of people with dementia in the UK



Hospital Experience

- Usually an unplanned admission
- Unfamiliar environment
- Over stimulating environment
 - Restless
 - Confusing
 - Distressing
 - Increase length of stay
 - Lose independence
 - Less likelihood of returning home



Ward 37 before the Refurbishment







The Nurses Station



Door Signage



Blank Walls in Rooms



Old Patient line boxes caused confusion



Windows onto corridors and between rooms



Toilets and bathrooms



Doors into veranda Area



Veranda Area



Time for a Change

Improving the Environment of Ward 37



Work conducted before the design process began:

- Visiting Bradford Royal Infirmary's new dementia facility
- Two day King's Fund course around designing for dementia
- Fundraising began
- A steering group was set up



Patient and Carer Consultation

2 week patient and carer consultation period including questionnaires and discussion sessions

Discussions with Older People's Liaison Group

Patients were observed and discussions were led to ask them what they liked about the space and what improvements they'd like to see.

Staff conducted an environmental audit to influence future designs





The **ARTS** in York Hospital

an Infection Prevention Perspective

Every space within the hospital can have artwork of some kind. The type of space dictates what kind of artwork is permissible:

Non-clinical spaces

- Main Corridors
- Foyers
- Waiting Rooms

These spaces are the most flexible. They can have anything from Art Category 1, 2 or 3.

Clinical spaces

- Wards (Apart from Ward 31)
- Clinical Spaces

These spaces can have wall mounted art forms as long as they can be thoroughly cleaned. They can have anything from Art Category 1 or 2.

High Risk Spaces

- Oncology and Haematology
- Ward 31
- ICU & HDU

These spaces can't have anything that creates a ledge that could gather dust. They can have anything from Art Category 1.



Developing Supportive Design for People with Dementia

5 Design Principles

- Meaningful activity
- Legibility
- Orientation
- Wayfinding
- Familiarity



Design Outcomes

1. Reducing agitation and distress
2. Encouraging independence & social interaction
3. Promoting safety
4. Enabling activities of daily living









Nurses station



Before and After



External views of Rooms



External Views of Rooms



External and Internal views of rooms



External and Internal views of rooms



Internal view of purple, viola room



Internal view of blue forget-me-not room



Internal view of orange carnation room



External view of white snowdrop room and bathroom



Bathroom, toilet and shower signage



Internal bathroom and toilet views



Improvement to doors



Day room



Artwork in the ward

Next Steps...

- Replicating this work on other wards
- Rolling this out to other Trust sites
- Volunteers for activities
- Continuing to research best practice in design for dementia so that we continually improve in this area.









‘It makes such a difference, can we have music on the ward every day?’

“Mum’s had a really rough week, it’s so nice to see her smiling again. Thank you so much”





