



Tina Smith

Introduction

- **Community Mental Health Nurse**
- **Gloucester Area / Partnership Trust**
- **Mother of 4**
- **Tina Smith**

Wandering in the Community

- Specific issues relating to people with dementia wandering whilst living at home in the community.
- Difficulties in managing the needs of the person with dementia alongside the needs of others.

Major Risk Issue In The Job of C.M.H.N.

Source of major concern to lots of people

Family

Friends

Neighbours

Local Community

Police

Nurses / Doctors

Balancing a person's right to autonomy against safety issues

Autonomy

Identity

Safety

Security



Issues / Concerns

- How do we currently assess risk to determine when somebody is safely wandering as opposed to unsafe wandering?
- No screening/assessment tools are being used specifically for wandering in the community. (that I'm aware of)

Current Practice

- We make judgements dependant on a number of different factors taken from a variety of different sources which lead us to decide whether someone is in danger.
- Risk assessment documentation to determine whether someone is low/medium/high risk.

How is wandering defined in the community?????

- **Many Definitions around wandering.....(Algase)**
- How is it defined in relation to people with dementia in the community.....?????
- Generally in terms of health/social services staff its definition is that as meaning someone who is difficult to manage.
- Wandering = *Problem*

Wandering as a Label

It has major impact in how someone with dementia is perceived / treated by the people around them once labelled as a

'Wanderer'

Questions????

- **What can we do to help make the right decisions for these people when we are assessing & planning care?**
- What can be done to create best practice and address the needs of:
 - A) Person with dementia
 - B) People who care for person with dementia

What do we hope to achieve?

- Best Practice:
- **Need for promotion of new theories around wandering behaviours**
- Need for a screening/assessment tool which could add depth and influence decision making and care planning for people with dementia living in the community.

Vision for the future

- **To have a screening tool approved by the trust in order to complement current risk assessment practice.**
- To look towards developing an assessment tool for wandering to use when undertaking risk assessment in the community to complement current risk assessment.

What have we done so far?

- Considered and discussed recent wandering articles in journal club.
- Looked at Jan's screening tool.
- Considered screening for wandering among older persons with dementia more specifically in the community.
- Adapted Jan's tool. (slightly)

Changes to Jan's tool

- 1. Moved home (or been moved between or within care setting)? **Yes/No**
- 2. Shadowed or closely followed a relative/carer around for prolonged periods? **Yes/No**
- 3. Moved around more frequently and had difficulty in sitting still for more than a few minutes? **Yes/No**
- 4. Entered into other people's homes/gardens?
Yes/No
- 5. Made attempts to leave a place that is familiar to them? **Yes/No**
- 6. Needed someone to direct or accompany them back to a familiar place? **Yes/No**

Considering Assessment

- How do we assess the degree of risk?
- We ask.....
- How often is it happening?
- What time of day is it happening?
- Where did the person go?
- How did the person get back to a familiar place?
- Was the person dressed appropriately?



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"The great affair is to move, to feel the needs and hitches of life more nearly, to come down off this featherbed of civilization and find the globe granite under foot"

Robert Louis Stevenson