

## **Cassie Eastham Occupational Therapist Wigan Later Life & Memory Service**

Exploring practice nurses' experiences of dementia screening and referring to local memory services

Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) Greater Manchester

## Project aims and objectives

- To explore practice nurses' experiences of carrying out dementia screening and referring to local memory services.
- It will identify whether practice nurses are screening patients for dementia, their process for doing this, and whether or not they refer to memory services.
- It will explore practice nurses' level of confidence in assessing dementia symptoms and discussing local dementia support and services with patients.

## **Project plan**

### **Done**

- Draft project outline, questionnaire and participant information sheet written
- Contact made with local practice nurse forum

### **Ongoing**

- Establishing contacts within CCG to gain approval and access to GP surgeries

### **To do**

- Register service evaluation with Trust R&D department
- Recruit participants and complete questionnaire
- Analysis and reporting results

## Resources

- Trust library services
- Trust R&D department
- Local REC
- NIHR workshop
- Discussions with University staff
- Support from CLAHRC staff
- Informal advice from NIHR R&D

## Obstacles/challenges faced

- Complexities of accessing GP services
- My own anxiety - particularly using resources that don't match the scale of my project
- Time - work/life balance & service delivery
- Distractions of interesting (but relevant) opportunities

## **Key achievements:**

- Exorcising my ethics committee demons
- Understanding more about research in practice vs undergraduate projects
- Support and enthusiasm from researchers
- Thinking about me as a researcher in the future