



- 3,153 people have used the 'SeNS Shared' programme in the 2 years from October 2011
- Dementia sufferers and their carers highly value the support to prevent the need for further intervention
- Assistant Practitioners independently cater for a wide range of health and care needs

## Assistant Practitioner - Dementia and Day Services

'SeNS Shared' dementia programme, Ada Kay Resource Centre, Stockport

**With dementia affecting 800,000 people in the UK, and the government having made dementia services a national priority, this programme aims to provide holistic support to both the dementia sufferer and their carer, separately and together.**

The 'SeNS Shared' programme operates two days a week, and is a partnership between Step Out Stockport, Stockport Council and the Alzheimer's Society, for dementia sufferers and their partners.

One of the 'SeNS Shared' days is for people with a new diagnosis and their partners, providing a 12-week course for around 10-15 couples.

The other day each week is for couples to 'drop in' to participate in activities and entertainment – the main focus of both days being to provide a place where couples can do things together and enjoy themselves without fear of judgement or misunderstanding.

SeNS is a European transnational project, funded by Interreg IVB North West Europe.

### Benefits of Assistant Practitioner

As a result of the foundation degree course the Assitant Practitioner (AP) now feels more confident to liaise with other professionals and brings a wide range of knowledge and skills to the role, developed through the course:

- |                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Administration of medication | Moving and Handling |
| Dementia                     | Therapy Skills      |
| Foot care                    | Health Promotion    |
| Arthritis                    | First Aid           |
| Stroke                       | Continance          |
| Adult safeguarding           |                     |

The AP is able to observe and detect a wide range of health and social care needs, provide advice and assistance to both service users and carers, liaise with other professionals and refer on to other services where necessary.

The service assists with maintaining service users' independence, reducing or delaying the need for additional health or social care input.

*"I don't know what we'd have done without these activities. It's been great to see my dad playing snooker and my mum and dad dancing and smiling again, also socialising with others. Once my dad was diagnosed with vascular dementia it was very difficult a) to understand what was happening to him; b) know how to deal with it; and c) know how to carry on life with this condition. This programme has been very helpful in assisting my parents to cope." - family member*

*"This programme is well respected locally, nationally and internationally. It offers an important lifeline to carers and supports them in maintaining their independence and relationship with their loved one. I believe it significantly relieves the pressure these individuals would have placed on acute, primary and social care services." - Service Manager*

Investing in Opportunities

This project has received European Regional Development Funding through INTERREG IV B. INTERREG IVB