

## Building on Success: The Distraction Therapy Collection

The Distraction Therapy Collection is a range of specialist equipment, including touch screen monitors and tablet computers provided by My Improvement Network. Healthcare professionals at Walsall use the equipment at point of care to distract and stimulate patients with dementia. In a successful collaboration between the Older Adults Mental Health Team, Dementia Support Team and Library and Knowledge Services, a unique online tracking system for the collection was created and is now managed by the library specialists.

### About the project

A review of the existing collection between the Library Manager and the Advanced Nurse Practitioner identified a need for a better tracking system for the equipment. The collection originally based in the Older Peoples Mental Health Team's office was moved to the library to alleviate storage problems. A task and finish group was led by the Evidence-Based Information Specialist and the Dementia Support Worker who performed a range of activities including; compiling an inventory of the collection, checking the equipment worked and devising an online loaning procedure. All the distraction therapy equipment was labeled and added to the library catalogue so items can be tracked. The library team were trained by the Dementia Support Worker on using the specialist equipment. A web page was created to promote the collection and to enable online booking. The library team promoted the collection and explained the new procedure to Ward Managers. Regular ward visits are undertaken by the team to monitor the process.

### Benefits and impact of the project

- Partnership working has combined the expertise of the two teams and raised their profiles
- Organising the collection has increased efficiency and usage
- The new tracking system identifies when equipment is available and reduces loss

*"This has been a fantastic addition to our expanding services that we are able to provide for people with dementia in Walsall. It has now given us a very structured approach to loaning the equipment. Not only has this innovation been a huge bonus but the service now has such a professional approach to it all with regard to advertising, raising awareness, social media etc. The Library team in conjunction with Older Peoples Mental Health and Pathways for Life have been able to lift the profile of service provision to another level. I'm convinced that this is the beginning of really positive things to come for the future."*

**Debbie Shaw Advanced Nurse Practitioner  
Older Peoples Mental Health, Walsall  
Healthcare NHS Trust**

