

Joint Event
12th International Conference on
Vascular Dementia and Dementia
&
8th International Conference on
Neurological Disorders and Stroke

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An interactive presentation and open discussion of the needs of an LGBTQ+ person living with Dementia

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Session Objectives:

- To identify key needs of LGBTQ+ people who may be living with dementia
- To think about current service provision for LGBTQ+ people who may be living with dementia
- To explore theories within sexuality and gender and their application for a person living with dementia.
- To demonstrate knowledge about how a person's identity is linked with their sexuality and Gender and the implications this could have for a person living with dementia.

Fictional Case study: Alice is a transgender person who is living with Alzheimer's disease. Alice identifies as a woman, she has had gender reassignment surgery. Alice is in the moderate stage of her Alzheimer's disease. Alice is currently living in a residential care home specialising in dementia care. Alice in later years has

identified as a lesbian.

Context: According to the Semlyen (2016) there are no accurate statistics on LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer) people living with dementia. However, it is estimated that there are 1.2 million older gay and lesbian people in the U.K (Semlyen 2016). If you apply this statistic to the fact that one in fourteen people over the age of 65 may develop a form of dementia (Alzheimer's Society 2017), you can estimate that there could be approximately 85,714 gay and lesbian people with dementia. This approximate demonstrates that there is a need for services such as care homes to recognise the specific needs of a Gay and lesbian person with dementia. The estimate however does not take into account transgender or other non-binary people living with dementia, the number of LGBTQ+ people with dementia could therefore be a greater number.

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