Grant recipient: Bethan Mair Edwards
Grant: Research Career Development Grant 2017
Title of project: A window of opportunity: Developing an early occupational therapy intervention for people who have dementia and their family carers

Abstract

In 2015, 850,000 were living with dementia in the United Kingdom; incidence is projected to increase by 40% in 2025 and by 156% in 2051. Successive UK governments have subsequently asserted their commitment to improving and innovating health and social care services for people who with dementia. A significant emphasis has been placed upon early diagnosis and intervention, including enhancing service provision in primary care and the development of multi-disciplinary memory assessment services.

Research attesting to the effectiveness and efficacy of early occupational therapy intervention for people with early-stage dementia is scarce. Drawing upon the Medical Research Council’s guidelines regarding the development and evaluation of complex interventions, this study’s primary aim will be to develop the theoretical evidence base for early occupational therapy intervention. A mixed methods approach will be taken, combining qualitative interviews, a multiple comparative case study design and a Delphi-type survey, which will be employed sequentially.