Project title
A practice based learning resource for staff working with people with intellectual disabilities and dementia

Exchange Fellow
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Duration of Project
October 2014 - August 2015

Project Overview
This exchange fellowship will focus on the development of a practice-based learning resource for social care staff supporting people with intellectual disabilities and dementia. Learning resources addressing the specific needs of people with intellectual disabilities and dementia are rare and those in existence deliver classroom-based learning or were developed for healthcare staff. The existence of a theory-practice gap is widely acknowledged in literature and the need for a learning resource, which is delivered in practice by experienced practitioners working alongside staff and that evaluates and evidences the transfer of learning into practice, was identified in a research project carried out as part of the applicants' MSc.

Scotland’s National Dementia Strategy (Scottish Government 2010) identified the learning needs of staff working with people with dementia as a priority and the Promoting Excellence in Dementia Care Framework (Scottish Government 2011) was developed and is being implemented throughout Scotland. However, the specific needs of people with intellectual disabilities who develop dementia were not addressed by the strategy or in the Promoting Excellence in Dementia Care Framework. This resource will address the need for a learning resource that meets the learning needs of staff, promotes good outcomes for service users and evidences learning into practice.