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Establishing Authentic Partnerships with People Living with Dementia as Educators within a University Curriculum

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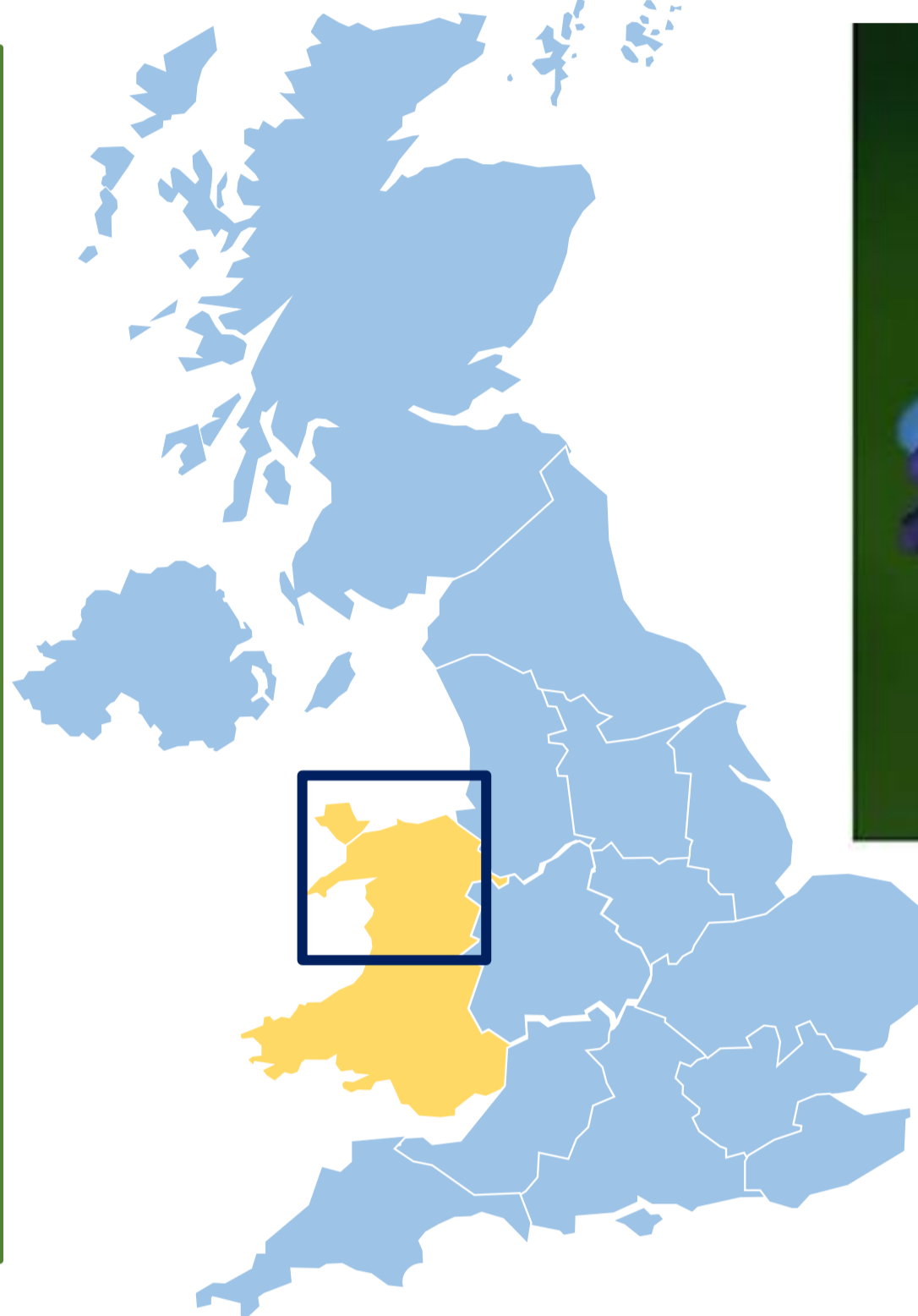
Why is including the voices of people living with dementia in higher education programmes important?

The biomedical narrative of dementia has traditionally been one of loss and decline. The voices of people living with dementia have been absent from portrayals and within higher education programmes. Health students need to feel confident whilst on placement, seeing the person first before any diagnosis. This requires authentic partnerships to ensure that the content meets the requirements of the curriculum, helps to develop students' understanding, and supports people to share their experiences.

The North Wales Dementia Network

The North Wales dementia network was established to improve social learning and collaboration across the health, social care, and academics working to improve support for people living with dementia. Initial face-to-face meetings developed into an online regional group, which has grown to over 800 members.

Join the North Wales Dementia Network Facebook group here:



North Wales Dementia Network

Public group · 818 members

The Caban group

The members living with dementia also established a dementia engagement and empowerment project group called Caban supporting students and staff to lead work on the first University in Wales to work towards becoming dementia friendly. The Caban group have been supported to share their views and experiences since 2017 within the pre-registration nursing and medicine degrees in addition to extensive involvement within the teaching of the masters in dementia programmes and consulting on the design of new research.

For more information about the Caban group:

- Visit our website dcdc.bangor.ac.uk
- Contact Dr Catrin Hedd Jones at c.h.jones@bangor.ac.uk



"Having input from people living with dementia and their carers on the MSc course has enhanced my learning. Personal stories and experience are more valuable than any research article I could read".

Master Student, Bangor University

The Caban members also developed peer support guides on living with dementia. Join us at the session QOP7 on 18th October to learn more in a talk by Catrin Hedd Jones

The process of embedding personal experiences of dementia within health programmes:



Lecture Preparation

The learning outcomes for the lecture are reviewed to ascertain where personal experience of dementia can be embedded.

Caban availability is confirmed and learning outcomes are shared to support their preparation for the discussion.



Arranging Travel for Caban Members

Travel preference (i.e., by car or train) is confirmed.

Train tickets are booked in advance.

Directions to the lecture building are provided.

Refreshments are ordered.



Facilitating Lecture Delivery

Caban member is greeted and introduced to the students.

Group discussion is based around the member's unique lived experiences and perspective.

Dialogue involving the sharing of views, opinions, and expertise is encouraged to stimulate understanding.



Collating and Sharing Feedback

A £20 shopping voucher is offered to the Caban member as a token of appreciation.

Student feedback is collected via online forms. This is collated and shared with the Caban member to demonstrate the impact of their contribution on student's learning.