

# Tool

## Barriers faced by people with dementia



These barriers are taken from HOW CAN AND SHOULD UK SOCIETY ADJUST TO DEMENTIA? By Carol Thomas and Christine Milligan 2015 for Joseph Rowntree Foundation. This explores how the social model of disability applies to dementia.

The social model of disability is about the barriers encountered by people who are viewed by others as having some form of impairment – whether physical, mental or intellectual. The main barriers faced by people with dementia are below.

This tool can help you to consider how barriers impact on people and you can help to overcome barriers.

| Barrier   | What is the impact on people with dementia? | How can I help to overcome barriers? |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| lack of understanding of the impairment effects that come with the stages of dementia on the part of some non-disabled people |   |                                      |
| lack of sympathy and tolerance on the part of some non-disabled people  |   |                                      |
| failure to recognise the practical difficulties faced by people with dementia   |   |                                      |
| failure to understand how easy it is for anxiety, fear and uncertainty to take hold in the minds of people with dementia      |   |                                      |
| failure to find ways to communicate with people with dementia, especially where spoken language is minimal or absent          |   |                                      |

# Tool

## Barriers faced by people with dementia (cont.)



| Barrier   | What is the impact on people with dementia? | How can I help to overcome barriers? |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| failure to recognise and respond to the non-verbal ways that people with dementia use to try to communicate   |   |                                      |
| misrecognition and misunderstanding of behaviours and expressions displayed by people with dementia   |   |                                      |
| failure to ask people with dementia what they want, how they feel, what would help to improve things in their lives etc   |   |                                      |
| cruelty, violence and abuse directed at people with dementia  |   |                                      |
| lack of respect, dignity and compassion   |   |                                      |
| failure to design or adapt items, interiors, buildings, and external environments like streets and gardens, to support people with dementia enabling them to remain active, engaged and comfortable |   |                                      |

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## Barriers faced by people with dementia (cont.)



| Barrier  | What is the impact on people with dementia? | How can I help to overcome barriers? |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| denial of choice, self-determination and citizenship rights  |   |                                      |
| failure to help get an early diagnosis of dementia because of the social stigma and fear attached to it      |   |                                      |
| weaknesses and failures in medical treatments  |   |                                      |
| failure by some services to support the needs of family and other informal carers of people with dementia    |   |                                      |
| stigmatising and degrading images and representations of people with dementia in the media and wider culture |   |                                      |
| inadequate or absent state legislation and official policies in the interests of people with dementia        |   |                                      |