LGBT people mistrust services

Nearly three quarters of older lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) people are not confident that health and social care services provide sensitive end of life care for their needs, according to a report.

Hiding Who I Am, by charity Marie Curie, also states that LGBT people often delay accessing care, and are more likely than other people to have unmanaged symptoms and pain at the end of their lives.

The report, which draws on the experiences of LGBT people with terminal illnesses and their partners, is part of Marie Curie-funded research projects by the University of Nottingham and King’s College London.

More than one quarter of older LGBT respondents also said they had experienced discrimination from health or social care professionals.

Go to http://goo.gl/E96hx0

Mental health lead is nurse of the year 2016

A nurse who transformed dementia care at her trust has been named RCN Northern Ireland nurse of the year 2016.

Western Health and Social Care Trust lead nurse for older people’s mental health Pauline Casey initiated changes that reduced incidence of falls and challenging behaviour among dementia patients.

Over three years, Ms Casey reduced inpatient treatment from 84 days to nine days, developed two dementia-specific assessment centres and established a therapeutic hub for patients at each of the trust’s hospitals.

Ms Casey said: ‘I can’t believe it. I am really surprised, just shocked.’

She received the award at a gala ceremony held at Hillsborough Castle, Belfast in May.

Queen Margaret University to offer master’s degree in person-centred practice

A master’s degree that introduces nurses to the concept of person-centred practice has been launched by Queen Margaret University.

The university’s centre for person-centred practice research will run six courses on placing ‘the person’ at the heart of all decision making.

Leading academic in person-centred research Brendan McCormack spent a year designing the degree course and is a member of the teaching faculty at the university.

Heart of nursing

He explained that, while most master’s degrees include elements of person-centredness, this ‘is the only one that focuses on putting people at the heart of nursing’.

Professor McCormack said: ‘It is about moving away from the traditional view of treating illness to thinking about promoting wellness for patients and the people who care for them.

‘Not only is it about recognising the patient’s values and beliefs, but it is also about ensuring that you respect your own beliefs and values.

‘Putting people at the heart of what we do is easy to say, but extremely challenging to do.’