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Supporting care home residents sexuality, intimacy and relationship needs: findings from a scoping review

Horne, M., Brown, L.J.E., Youell, J., Brown Wilson, C., Dickinson, T. & Simpson, P.

Abstract

Addressing and meeting the sexuality, intimacy and relationship needs of older care home residents in the UK is lacking (Simpson et al., 2015). Care home staff are often faced with complex moral and legal dilemmas, when attempting to balance residents' individual rights to sexual freedom with the need to safeguard vulnerable adults in their care, reporting an urgent need for training and guidance on this sensitive issue (Simpson et al. 2016, 2017). Although there are existing training resources on the topic, for example from the Care Quality Commission and Royal College of Nursing Care (2018), care home staff are largely unaware of them (Simpson et al. 2016, 2017). We undertook a scoping review, using the Arksey and O'Malley (2005) scoping methodological framework, of existing information and resources relevant to supporting care home staff to meet residents' sexuality, intimacy and relationship needs in order to:(i) identify existing information and resources relevant to supporting care home staff to meet residents' sexuality, intimacy and relationship needs and (ii) identify gaps in the evidence base. This paper presents the findings of the scoping review to inform our understanding of how to better tailor training resources to engage and support care home staff to meet the sexuality, intimacy and relationship needs of care home residents that are feasible and acceptable in a care home setting.

Words: 222

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