

## **Dementia Select Committee – Hearing 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011**

### **2.30-3.15 Interview - Edith Megbele**

#### **Biography**

Edith has a degree in mental health nursing and currently works as a Community Mental Health Nurse in the Home Treatment Service. She works with older adults with a diagnosis of dementia, providing support either in the person's own home, in care homes or in hospitals. Her work is geared towards preventing admission into a mental health ward or to assist families during the transitions from home to care home or from hospital back to home. She also provides support to care homes in managing challenging behaviours associated with dementia. She is an advocate for and supporter of older people with dementia and their families.

#### **Themes & Questions**

1. Could you please introduce yourself and outline your role and its setting, in relation to dementia care?
2. How can different health services and social care services work more effectively together – where are the sticking points and what are your suggestions for the best way forward?
3. What kinds of support or service are most effective in supporting people to remain at home with dignity and a greater quality of life?
4. Can you comment on the level of awareness of dementia and recognition of it among the nursing and caring professions in general, with reference to Kent?
5. What are the risks of not recognising dementia in a patient attending either a primary or secondary care setting on another medical issue?
6. In your experience are the views, knowledge and needs of carers for people with dementia taken into account by the various medical professionals who may be involved and if not – what should be happening to address this?
7. Could you please comment on the 9 Steps – from your experience in Kent, and knowledge of practice elsewhere – where do we need to concentrate our efforts and what innovations are contributing to reaching these goals?
8. Is the Big Society the answer – what can all of us do to play our part?