



The Dementia Services  
Development Centre



UNIVERSITY OF  
STIRLING

# Creating a Design Audit Framework

[www.dementia.stir.ac.uk](http://www.dementia.stir.ac.uk)





# Reasons for Developing a Tool

1. Create effective environments
2. Informed decision making
3. Provide best value
4. Be accountable/Quality Assurance
5. Leaders in change





# Research Based Evidence – e.g. Flooring

Flooring should avoid significant contrast  
and avoid significant difference in points of  
threshold change?





The Dementia Services  
Development Centre

Who say  
so?





# Specific Studies

Perrit M et al 2005 Alzheimer Care Quarterly  
Empirical Findings Suggest Recommendations for Carpet Pattern and  
Texture

“walking times and lowest number of incidents in each texture were the  
patterns having the smallest motifs and the lowest contrast





The Dementia Services  
Development Centre

# Layers of Evidence - Signage





## Layers of Evidence – Signage

- Heights of signs- average height, ageing eye
- Knowledge for visual impairment work
- Reduction in incontinence incidence reported
- Number of small scale studies





# International Best Practice and Expert Opinion

- Significant body of opinion from a range of examples
- Opinion is on the whole consistent
- Evidence is accumulating





The Dementia Services  
Development Centre

# Creating a Design Framework





## Key Elements of Our Work

- Expert group assembled
- Literature review (will be published)
- Draw together existing work
- Extensive piloting in England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Australia and Scotland





# Objectives

- Sought to create a tool that could be used in new and in existing buildings across a range of settings and individual areas
- Create a measure for informed decision making
- Develop a benchmark
- Recognise good practice through official accreditation





# Criteria

## Essential

The design features in this category are essential criteria, based on research and expert opinion. 100% of the criteria in this category must be met to be registered with the DSDC as a dementia friendly setting.

## Recommended

The design features in this category are recommended for environments to be used by people with dementia, based on current literature and international best practice. At least 50% of the criteria in this category must be met to be registered with the DSDC as a dementia friendly setting.





# Areas to be Covered

- The tool is broken down into units covering different areas. Some environments will not contain all the rooms that are described in the audit workbook (for example, there is unlikely to be a bathroom in a medical centre).
- Although not all units need to be completed, all areas of a building that people with dementia have access to should be audited.





# Stages and Tools

- Architectural Drawings Audit Tool (due November 2008)
- Design Audit Tool
- Design Certification

