

Worksheet 5:

Exploring the needs of a person with dementia and their carer

Ernie is eighty-two years old. He has Dementia with Lewy Bodies (DLB). Ernie lives alone and is reliant on others to provide for his care. He does not leave his house alone because of the impact of his cognitive impairment and physical frailty on his safety and well-being. Ernie spends much of his day sitting in his armchair with the television on. He has a daughter, Nancy, who visits him every day.

What might Ernie's care needs be?

What might Ernie's emotional needs be?

What might Ernie's social needs be?

Nancy is fifty-six years old. She lives with her retired husband in a large house. Nancy works full time as a department manager in a large department store. Nancy's dad, Ernie, has dementia, and she is his main carer. Nancy has recently requested a reduction in her working hours as she visits her dad every day and is responsible for co-ordinating the care he receives, providing his meals, doing his laundry and housework, taking him for appointments and trying to 'give him some sort of quality of life'. She is finding it harder to keep doing the job she loves as well as caring for her dad. Nancy's husband is worried about how they will manage financially, but more importantly he is worried about Nancy who seems exhausted; she is not sleeping or eating properly, and she is not seeing her friends or family as she used to.

What might Nancy's care needs be?

What might Nancy's emotional needs be?

What might Nancy's social needs be?