Meeting those working and living with dementia questions

The purpose of the visit is for you to be able to meet and talk with people who work and live with dementia and so please don’t think that you have to go through this list of questions. If they don’t understand a question try I want you to be polite and sensible and to listen to what you is said to you and to ask questions arising from what is said. In many cases they should find that the person will talk a lot from the basis of one question and so they don’t need loads. Ask politely if there is anything that you don’t understand. At the end of the session thank them for answering your questions

The person with dementia (15 minutes)

*The purpose of these questions is to get the person to talk to about themselves and their life so that you gain a wider understanding of them as a person. Allow about 10 minutes for this. Then use the remaining five minutes to talk about dementia.*

1. Introduce the person to the form and establish how they like to be addressed – first name, Mr/Mrs/Ms.
2. When and where were you born?
3. Can you tell us something about your childhood/parents/school(s)? (pets, friends, happy times, exciting times, sad moments, teachers, toys, sweets, games)
4. What job(s) did you do? (What did you have to do? Did anything funny happen to you? What can you tell us about the people you worked with?
5. What can you tell me about your married life? (partner, children, holidays, pets, friends)
6. If they were in the armed forces or lived through the war you might want to ask them about that.
7. When were you diagnosed with dementia?
8. How has it affected you?

The carer (10 minutes)

*The purpose of these questions is to firstly to be able to place the carer in the wider context of their relationship to the person with dementia, and secondly to get the carer to talk about how they adapt and cope with the dementia.*

1. Again Introduce the person to the form and establish how they like to be addressed – first name, Mr/Mrs/Ms.
2. How long have you known…..?
3. What are you best memories of life before the dementia?
4. What is life like with…..since they have been diagnosed with dementia?

The professional (10 minutes)

*The purpose of these questions is to get the professional to talk in more general terms about dementia and the help and support available to people. It might be better to allow the rest of the form to ask general questions about dementia with the champions choosing the people to ask questions as hands go up.*

1. Again introduce them. What is their role?
2. General question about dementia – its symptoms, prognosis, how to limit chances of being diagnosed with it in later life
3. Questions about how the support available to the person and the carer.

 Thank your three visitors for coming to talk to the form.