**Supplementary Table 1. Topic guide for semi-structured interviews with dementia professionals**

| Introduction and general |
|--------------------------|
| • Please can you say a few words to introduce yourself and describe your job role? |
| • How many years’ experience do you have in this role? |
| • What experience do you have in communicating with people with dementia or other patient populations who have limited verbal ability? |

| Existing Resources and Experience |
|-----------------------------------|
| • How do you approach people with more progressed dementia and what do you do when you want to find out something about them or their experiences? |
| • Which of these techniques / tools works well and why? |
| • Which of these techniques / tools does not work well and why? |
| • What improvements would you suggest to existing tools to enable better communication with people with dementia? |
| • Have you ever used [Talking mats], [Pictures to Share books], [other examples of tools] or other existing resources, and what has been helpful or unhelpful about them in your experience? |
| • Are there any other resources / techniques you would like to discuss which you think work well / do not work well when improving communication in dementia? |
| • Do you know of resources / techniques from other areas of practice, such as learning difficulties or other patient populations, which work well as communication aids? |
| • Can you describe, from your experience, the ways people with dementia who are seldom heard in research, communicate or try to communicate? |
| • Is there anything not currently in use which you think would be helpful to improve communication with people with dementia? |
| • Do you think existing staff and researchers understand the ways people with advanced dementia communicate and what may help them better understand this? |
| • How do you think we could best capture the direct viewpoints, wishes and feelings of people with advanced dementia? |

| Communication in different settings |
|------------------------------------|
| • Is there anything that needs to be considered when communicating with people with dementia in different settings - i.e. hospital/clinical setting, domestic home, care home, outdoors, public place? |
| • How may the communication needs differ for people with dementia in different settings and what do you think are the best resources to assist communication in |
these respective settings?

**Communication with different audiences**

- Who do you think people with dementia communicate most easily with (family / care staff / strangers / other people with dementia), and what could we learn from this?

- What are the ways we might assist researchers and care staff to best understand how a person with dementia communicates?

**Personalization in communication**

- How could we adapt our approach to communication to ensure the individual needs and preferences for people with dementia are captured?

- Are there different techniques which may aid communication with different age groups in advanced dementia / different genders / nationalities / second language?

**Plus any extra questions that arise from the conversation**