

# LGA briefing: Dementia care services

9 September 2015

## Key messages

- Dementia is an issue that affects us all. There are an estimated 21 million people in England who have a close family or friend with dementia (one in three people over 65 will develop dementia). Councils have a vital role to play in enabling people who are living with dementia, their families and their carers, to retain their independence in the community for as long as possible.
- As leaders, commissioners, planners, employers and service providers, councils have a key role in facilitating and leading approaches that enable people living with dementia to live well in their communities.
- A number of health and wellbeing boards are actively prioritising dementia and promoting dementia friendly communities. Councils that look at dementia strategically and positively will help mitigate the pressures on their services, particularly health and social care, from growing demand, while also unlocking enormous potential from people living with dementia, their carers and the wider community.
- Dementia is a public health issue and there is a key role for councils in taking forward public health responses. This includes promoting a healthy lifestyle to potentially reduce the risk of developing dementia and actively promoting access activities and wider community facilities for those who have been diagnosed with dementia.
- The LGA recently published '*Dementia Friendly Communities – guidance for councils*'. It outlines the important role of councils in supporting people with dementia by creating local dementia friendly communities. The publication also demonstrates how councils can improve accessibility for people with dementia.
- Dementia friendly communities contribute to promoting the rights of people with dementia in England. In such communities people are encouraged to live as independently as possible with choice and control, whilst eliminating the stigma that surrounds dementia and reducing social isolation. Many councils are already working to create dementia friendly local government services and communities.
- Adult social care is facing very real and serious funding pressures, the impact of which will ultimately fall on the people who require our services – including people with dementia and their carers. The funding gap facing social care must therefore be closed and the money from the delayed phase two Care Act reforms should be used for this purpose. The LGA has argued that this will not be sufficient to meet the predicted gap over the next spending review period so new money must be found.
- Integration of social care and health is also vital as it will improve outcomes for our residents and also secure value for money in the long term. The Spending Review is therefore a key opportunity to develop a more integrated and devolved approach to health and care systems which will benefit people with dementia.



# Briefing

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## **Background Information**

### **The 2015 Spending Review and adult social care**

*Adult social care, health and wellbeing: A Shared Commitment 2015 Spending Review Submission*

As part of our engagement with the Spending Review, the LGA and ADASS have submitted detailed proposals on the future of health and social care. Our paper *Adult social care, health and wellbeing: A Shared Commitment 2015 Spending Review Submission* outlines the pressures facing local government in their adult, health and wellbeing spending. It demonstrates that the Spending Review period will continue to present significant and increasing pressures within adult social care. They will be driven by:

- Increases in demand both of the volume and complexity of people's needs for adult social care.
- Reductions to wider local government funding.
- The introduction of the National Living Wage (NLW) and the absence on certainty of funding.
- The reducing scope for further efficiency savings.
- Increased numbers of allegations of abuse and neglect.
- Workforce skills and availability.

We share the Government's vision of integrated care and health services. However, in order for social care and health to be able to achieve this shared vision, both partners need to start from a sustainable financial footing. This means closing the annual £700 million funding gap in social care services and providing a transformation fund, worth £2 billion in each year of the Spending Review period, to allow new ways of working to become commonplace.

To shift the focus of the system from crisis management to prevention and early intervention, and to support the shift of demand from acute care to primary and community care alongside social care, we also propose using part of this fund to support investment in a more ambitious prevention strategy, which could generate a net return of 90 per cent over the next five years.

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### **Dementia friendly communities: guidance for councils**

In collaboration with the community interest company Innovations in Dementia, [the LGA has produced guidance for councils](#) outlining their important role in supporting people with dementia by creating local dementia friendly communities. The report also highlights examples of how councils are supporting those living with dementia.

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### **The Prime Minister's challenge on Dementia update**

The PM challenge on dementia sets out what this Government wants to see in place by 2020 in order for England to be:

- The best country in the world for dementia care and support and for people with dementia, their carers and families to live
- The best place in the world to undertake research into dementia and other neurodegenerative diseases

The Government has stated that it is keen to engage with stakeholders including the LGA on the development of an implementation plan to support the delivery of the PM's Challenge on Dementia 2020. Following this engagement process in Autumn 2015 the end product will be a Department of Health published short companion piece to the 2020 PM Challenge on Dementia. This will set out what

will happen to address each commitment in the Challenge, including the high level timescales and milestones and organisations responsible for delivery. The plan will be used by the Dementia Programme Board to hold stakeholders to account for delivery and progress made.

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### **Dementia Friends**

A dementia friend is a national initiative, launched by the Alzheimer's Society in February 2013. People can become dementia friends by attending a 45 minute face-to-face awareness information session run by a Dementia Champion (a volunteer who has undergone a day's training session). Dementia Friends Champions are volunteers who encourage others to make a positive difference to people living with dementia in their communities. The idea is that friends then commit to taking forward practical action to support people with dementia. This might include:

- Spending time with or helping a friend or relative affected by dementia;
- Volunteering to support someone with dementia;
- Fundraising for dementia related causes; or
- Spreading the word about dementia through social media.

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### **Key information**

The key facts and figures on dementia are:

- There are currently over 800,000 people with dementia in the UK.
- By 2021, there will be over a million people with dementia.
- One in three people over 65 will die with dementia.
- There are 670,000 carers of people with dementia in the UK.
- In 2011/12, only around 45 per cent of people with dementia had received a formal diagnosis. Government's aim is that by 2015, two thirds of people with dementia should have received a formal diagnosis.
- The proportion of people with dementia doubles for every 5 year age group.
- 80 per cent of people living in care homes have a form of dementia or severe memory problems.
- In total, dementia is estimated to cost the UK, £23 billion a year. This is an average cost of £29,746 per person.

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### **Case studies**

There are many areas which are actively working towards becoming dementia friendly. These are areas which are taking forward a number of community based initiatives so that people with dementia, their families and carers can remain in their communities for longer. For example, the City of York is aiming to improve their city for people with dementia by:

- Making York as easy as possible to move around and enjoy, with uncluttered and clear signage, and making public transport and facilities comfortable, easy to use and accessible.
- York has become the first UK railway station to attempt to become dementia friendly. In addition to training for all British Transport Police office, train operating company staff and even the staff running the coffee shop concessions, they have introduced a 'safe haven' room for people needing a quiet space to collect their thoughts – or to enable carers or family members to be contacted. They have gone one step further, by organising day trips to reassure people with dementia and carers that they can continue to use the railways with the support of knowledgeable and sympathetic staff.
- With training for staff who provide key services in the wider community, such as in banks, libraries and shops, to improve customer service and

'understanding of needs', and remove stigma.

- Using the 'dementia friendly' forget-me-not symbol to denote dementia-friendly services and venues (theatres, cinemas, cafes) to support businesses to become dementia-friendly and recognise such credentials. We can consider the needs of people with dementia when developing all services, not just health and care services.
- Encouraging people with dementia and carers to network and share experience and creating a York Dementia Action Alliance partners can commit to action within their own organisations and support this movement, building a sense of corporate responsibility across all sectors.