

Dementia

How Bassetlaw is supporting people with dementia

Our response to the National Dementia Strategy





What is dementia?

Dementia is a term used to describe a number of symptoms where there is progressive decline in multiple areas of function, including loss of memory, reasoning ability and communication and a decline in the skills needed to carry out everyday activities.

Other symptoms can include:

- mood swings,
- depression,
- psychosis,
- aggression
- wandering

There are several types of dementia, the most common being Alzheimer's disease and Vascular dementia. However the term "Alzheimer's disease" is used increasingly as a shorthand term to cover all types of dementia.

Who is affected by dementia?

In Bassetlaw the number of people predicted to have dementia is 1,393 in 2010 however only about a third of people have a formal diagnosis. By 2025 the over 65 population will go up by 50% and numbers of people with dementia in Bassetlaw are predicted to grow to around 2,320.

What is the purpose of this document?

To share with the general public NHS Bassetlaw response to the dementia strategy published by the Department of Health in 2009 titled "Living well with Dementia": A national strategy.

This document has been produced in the context of the National Dementia Strategy which outlines the need for improvement in dementia services across three key areas;

1. Improved public and professional awareness and understanding of dementia
2. Earlier diagnosis and intervention
3. A higher quality of care for people living with dementia and their carers

Public engagement

Carers and people with dementia have been consulted in relation to the three areas of the National Dementia Strategy and their views and recommendations have helped determine the local priorities for Bassetlaw.

What people told us is that there needs to be;

- Improved public and professional awareness and understanding of dementia. In particular improved understanding of dementia within the NHS
- The need for an early diagnosis so they can then continue their life and live well with dementia
- Better access to information and services available.

How we have responded

Significant work has already gone on to address the issues that the public have identified.

- New clinical guidelines for GPs on the prevention, early diagnosis and dementia
- A dementia awareness session has been planned to improve understanding and awareness for all frontline staff and GPs.
- A Pharmacy campaign has also been undertaken to further increase awareness with the general public. This has been developed with support from the Alzheimer's society.
- NHS Bassetlaw has commissioned services from the Alzheimer's society to support people in the community and also at the time of diagnosis by providing information about the illness and access to services.

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