



Healthcare
Improvement
Scotland

ihub

Focus on
Dementia
update

Focus on improving diagnosis and post-diagnostic support for people with dementia

Focus on Dementia: a national improvement programme

Focus on Dementia is a national improvement programme for dementia in Scotland, based within Healthcare Improvement Scotland's Improvement Hub (ihub). We work in partnership with national organisations, health and social care partnerships, people with dementia and carers to improve quality of care and support. All of this work is supporting the implementation of Scotland's 2017-2020 dementia strategy and informing future policy and practice.

Scotland's National Dementia Strategy

Scotland's third dementia strategy, published in 2017, builds on the nation's progress over the last 10 years in improving services and outcomes for people with dementia, their families and carers. The strategy sets out a number of commitments focusing on supporting improvements in diagnosis and post-diagnostic support for people with dementia.

Commitment 1 of this strategy focuses on enhancing the national post-diagnostic dementia service offer.

"We will revise the national post-diagnostic dementia service offer to enhance its focus on personalisation and personal outcomes in the delivery of post-diagnostic services."¹



Focus on Dementia – working in partnership

To deliver this, we are working with post-diagnostic support practitioners to develop and test a framework that identifies what a good support service looks like and helps services to make improvements in how they deliver support. The framework has been informed by listening to people with dementia, carers and staff views and experiences. The framework is due to be published in summer 2018.

Feedback on the framework has been overwhelmingly positive.

“This work highlights much of what we have been striving to do for a number of years now. I believe that a framework such as this will offer clarity of the expectation of PDS work.”

Practitioner sharing their experience of the Quality Improvement Framework
(Framework consultation, March 2018).



Two additional documents will be available to support the framework.

A guide for people with dementia and carers on what they should expect from a good quality post-diagnostic support service. This will be produced in partnership with the Scottish Dementia Working Group, the National Dementia Carers Action Network and will be informed by local group consultation.

1

Quality measures will be produced to provide an opportunity to measure and understand the quality of post-diagnostic support. This will be the first time that the quality of post-diagnostic support will be measured across Scotland.

2

Testing the relocation of post-diagnostic support in primary care

Commitment 2 of Scotland's dementia strategy focuses on testing the relocation of post-diagnostic services in primary care settings.

"We will test and independently evaluate the relocation of post-diagnostic dementia services in primary care hubs as part of the modernisation of primary care."¹



To support this, we are working with three groups of GP surgeries to test the delivery of dementia post-diagnostic support within this setting. By relocating post-diagnostic support within GP surgeries, we anticipate that people will feel more comfortable accessing support from a familiar environment and with the support of a team who are known to them.

Each site is taking a different approach to delivering the support in their setting which means they can be creative and do something that fits best for their local area. There is however a common set of outcomes which we aim to achieve by September 2019:

- people with dementia will have access to post-diagnostic support from a primary care setting
- people with dementia and carers will experience high quality post-diagnostic support from a primary care setting, and
- staff within these sites will have improved knowledge, understanding and confidence in supporting people with dementia and carers.

This two-year programme has been commissioned by the Scottish Government, and we are working alongside NHS Education for Scotland, Alzheimer Scotland and the Scottish Government to deliver this work. Our learning from this work is being shared with colleagues across Scotland.

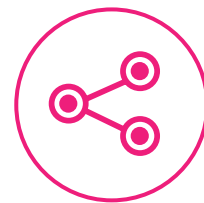
Dementia-friendly GP surgeries

Alzheimer Scotland is currently undertaking work to adapt a dementia-friendly GP guide and toolkit, produced by the Alzheimer's Society in England, for use in GP surgeries in Scotland. Once adapted, we will work with two sites to test this.



Sharing practice, knowledge and resources

Focus on Dementia, together with NHS Education for Scotland and Alzheimer Scotland, has developed a network for dementia link workers and other staff who provide post-diagnostic support. Our aim is to build a community of post-diagnostic support staff who can network with each other to learn and share best practice and improve post-diagnostic support services throughout Scotland.



The network combines online meetings and electronic newsletters along with face-to-face opportunities through regional and national events.

- Our newsletter is received by 130 post-diagnostic support practitioners.
- We host face-to-face events each year:
 - 47 practitioners attended our recent technology workshops.
- We hold regular online meetings each year open to anyone interested in post-diagnostic support:
 - 50 professionals attended our most recent online meeting.

For more information on the work of
Focus on Dementia, please visit our webpages
www.ihub.scot/focus-on-dementia

or follow us on twitter



@FocusOnDementia

Reference:

1. Alzheimer Scotland, COSLA and Scottish Government. Scotland's National Dementia Strategy 2017-2020. 2017 [cited 2018 May 14]; Available from <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00521773.pdf>