

# North Staffordshire Dementia Plan (2015-19) – Executive Summary

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Staffordshire health and social care see dementia as everybody's issue and one that deserves attention and effort in order to help people with dementia to live well. The NHS and social care have come together across Staffordshire in order to declare our commitment to improving the lives of people with dementia, as well as their families.

We want to develop a new plan of action which tells people what we will do as a whole health economy in order to achieve our vision for people with dementia.

*Our vision is "that the people of North Staffordshire living with dementia have access to an integrated, holistic care pathway which meets people's own individual outcomes and needs"*

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## ***What is Dementia?***

Dementia is a term used to describe the symptoms that occur when the brain is affected by certain diseases or conditions. There are many different types of dementia although some are far more common than others. They are often named according to the condition that has caused the dementia. Around 60% of people with dementia have Alzheimer's disease, which is the most common type of dementia, around 20 per cent have vascular dementia, which results from problems with the blood supply to the brain and many people have a mixture of the two. There are other less common forms of dementia, for example dementia with Lewy bodies and frontotemporal dementia.

## ***What's important to people living with dementia?***

People with dementia have told us what is important to them. They want a society where they are able to say:

- I have personal choice and control over the decisions that affect me.
- I know that services are designed around me, my needs and my carer's needs.
- I have support that helps me live my life.
- I have the knowledge to get what I need.
- I live in a helpful and supportive environment where I feel valued and understood.
- I have a sense of belonging and of being a valued part of family and community life.
- I am confident my end of life wishes will be respected. I can expect a good death.

\*Dementia Action Alliance is a national organisation which seeks to support organisations to become dementia friendly. Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent also have their own action alliance.

- I know that there is research going on which will deliver a better life for people with dementia, and I know how I can contribute to it.

### ***What do services look like now?***

Some good practice from individuals, but a disjointed pathway which can be confusing, with duplication and not enough information and guidance for people

### ***How do we want service to look in the future?***

We want to create a clear pathway of care which is joined up and easy for people to follow, with professionals who have the right awareness of dementia and people having access to the right information and advice.

### ***What are our priorities?***

Across North Staffordshire we shall prioritise:

- **Supporting people to have access to accurate and timely diagnosis** – ensuring that good quality services are closer to home, enabling people to be able to plan for the future
- **Enable people to Live Well with Dementia**- by having access to high quality, personalised support for both the person with dementia and their carers;
- **Creating dementia friendly communities** that help to improve the quality of life for people with a diagnosis of dementia and their carers;
- **Spreading the message of ‘living well’** – by improving professional and public awareness of dementia, whilst also making sure that people with dementia and carers have access to the right information, advice and guidance

### ***How are we going to do this?***

1. By making memory services more accessible, and closer to home in order to ensure that people know where to go to get a diagnosis
2. By working with local provider organisations in order to promote personal, family and community resilience in order to help people stay as independent as possible
3. By focusing on the delivery of integrated community services in order to avoid admissions to hospital but also support people when they leave hospital

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4. Review our community dementia services in order to ensure that they are fit for purpose and achieve positive outcomes for people
5. Support the development of a flexible and responsive care market for health and social care that is able to meet the needs and aspirations of people living with dementia and their families, at a high quality standard.
6. Be part of the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Dementia Action Alliance\* in order to create dementia friendly communities

### ***How can you give feedback?***

If you would like to tell us what you think about our plans for Dementia in North Staffordshire, we invite you to complete the a feedback form which can be found by accessing the North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group website at <http://www.northstaffscg.nhs.uk/dementia-strategy> or phone 0300 404 2999 Ext 8168 and a member of staff will post a copy out to you, along with a freepost envelope.

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