Opportunity for Change: actions to lead improvements

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Alzheimer’s Society
- I have personal choice and control or influence over decisions about me
- I know that services are designed around me and my needs
- I have support that helps me live my life
- I have the knowledge and know-how to get what I need
- I live in an enabling and supportive environment where I feel valued and understood
- I have a sense of belonging and of being a valued part of family, community and civic life
- I know there is research going on which delivers a better life for me now and hope for the future
Addressing the urgent need for a specific dementia strategy with clear lines of accountability

Providing people with dementia and family carers with access to good quality, integrated care that is affordable

Update on progress towards building dementia-friendly communities

Supporting people with dementia to live independently in their own homes
Towards a new strategy

- Raised profile of dementia, significant impetus to the need to improve dementia care
- Sustained focus on improving awareness, diagnosis and quality of care, better research
- Commitments to improving care for people with dementia and their carers
- Dementia Friends and the development of Dementia Friendly Communities
- Wide variation in quality and availability of care
- For many, care is inadequate, fragmented and not fit for purpose
- Costs to the economy and the individual are rising
- Cost of extended hospital stays
- In light of achievements, there is still much to do to meet the original strategy’s 17 objectives
- Renewed commitment to meeting those objectives
- *What* needs to be done, *who* needs to do it and *how* they can be enabled to do so
- Identification of the right people to lead improvement and change, across organisations
- Effective programmes of training and education
- Committed leadership from the top down, empowering and improving through organisational change
- England as a world leader in dementia
Good quality, effective, integrated care

- Integration remains our biggest challenge, but will give the biggest benefits
- A broken, disjointed system
- A need for more funding, and better use of the funding that is already available
- Potential for achievement in many areas, too often let down by the systems around them
- Quality guidance on commissioning
- Local authorities under increasing financial pressure
- Commissioning based on cost rather than quality
- Continued use of zero hours contracts for care staff
- Continued commissioning of 15 minute care visits, despite evidence of ineffectiveness
- Extension to the means test and cap in care costs will help, but don’t go far enough
Accountable, practical solutions are needed

Health and Wellbeing Boards driving local integration to meet local priorities

Care provided by dementia aware and friendly care staff, who themselves are supported and rewarded

Sharing of information and data, establishment of a kite mark alongside training, ensuring personalisation is in place, and that local markets meet need

A national conversation on the future of health and social care
Building Dementia-Friendly Communities

2012
- 20 communities working to become dementia friendly
- 10% of England covered by a LDAA
- Low awareness and understanding

2015
- 72 communities working to become dementia friendly
- 75% of England is covered by a LDAA
- 1 Million dementia friends
- 10 sector based task and finish groups
- Guidance for employers
- Guidance for retail outlets
- Leaflet on how to share and access personal data
- Report on the role of the arts sector
- Charter on dementia friendly transport
Dementia Friendliness
Communities
Supporting people to live independently

- People tell us it is difficult to get the support they need to remain independent
- We must acknowledge that different settings represent what is ‘their own home’
- Lack of support means people with dementia are often admitted to hospital in an emergency
- Longer than average stay and discharge to care homes sooner are known consequences
- Commissioning of good, effective integrated care
- Prevention or significant delay of admission
- Effective support and care in the home setting should include transition into hospital
- Involvement of carers, family, care home staff or use of This is Me
- Effective support and care at discharge to help people back in to their own homes
- Dementia-Friendly Communities that encompass the whole community, including care homes
- Increase in standards of care in hospitals, care homes and community settings
- Commissioning practices that involve and include people with dementia and their carers
- Support for individuals to make decisions about their own care
- Assessments for carers that recognise and respond to their needs
- Support local Dementia Action Alliances
An opportunity for change

- None of these suggestions are new
- Many do not require huge amounts of investment
- All of them require stakeholders that are involved in the provision of dementia care and support to think and work differently in order to achieve what is needed
- A new national strategy will provide the impetus for thinking and working differently, to give accountability and to lead the country in the delivery of world class care
Thank you

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