

Dementia Action Alliance Action Plan



Housing Guidance note

This note outlines why and how housing providers can improve the lives of people with dementia. It also provides guidance on how you can join the Dementia Action Alliance and publically state your commitment through developing an Action Plan.

What is dementia?

Dementia is a condition of the brain which can affect memory, everyday tasks, communication and perception.

People with dementia face many challenges going about their daily lives. These include going shopping, using public transport, socialising and getting involved with their community. When they face difficulties, it adds to their stress, and can lead to people reducing or giving up their community involvement and becoming isolated.

Unfortunately people's lack of understanding and impatience can make these problems worse. Housing providers have an important role to play in ensuring people living with dementia can continue to live their lives, and remain active in their communities for as long as possible.

Why is dementia important to you?

Dementia is important to housing providers because:

- There are 800,000 people living with dementia in the UK, many of whom may be your tenants
- Two thirds of people with dementia live in the community and people with dementia and their carers place great importance on their homes.
- 82% of the public believe that people with dementia and those that care for them need more help and support (You Gov 2011)
- Much of the UK's current housing stock is poorly designed to meet the needs of older people.
- By not undertaking actions to support people with dementia your organisation may not be compliant with the Equality Act 2010, which recognises dementia as a disability. This means that your organisation should make reasonable adjustments to avoid discrimination

How can you help?

Join the Dementia Action Alliance, develop a short Action Plan and be part of the national movement to improve the lives of people living with dementia. Over 600 organisations have

signed up, committing to over 2500 actions. This includes hundreds of local organisations who have joined as part of the Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia.

By joining the Dementia Action Alliance (nationally and locally) you can have regular contact with likeminded businesses and organisations who are undertaking similar actions to improve the lives of people living with dementia. This could save you money by allowing you to bulk purchase training and work collectively to create dementia friendly communities.

Sign up to the National Dementia Declaration

The National Dementia Declaration lists seven outcomes that all businesses, charities and public bodies can collectively work towards to improve the lives people with dementia and their carers. These are:

1. I have personal choice and control or influence over decisions about me
2. I know that services are designed around me and my needs
3. I have support that helps me live my life
4. I have the knowledge and know-how to get what I need
5. I live in an enabling and supportive environment where I feel valued and understood
6. I have a sense of belonging and of being a valued part of family, community and civic life
7. I know there is research going on which delivers a better life for me now and hope for the future

By signing up to Declaration you are publically stating that people can live well with dementia and that all of the society has a responsibility for ensuring that it happens.

How do you join the Dementia Action Alliance?

Depending on your size and reach you will be invited to join either the national Dementia Action Alliance (England wide organisations) or your Local Dementia Action Alliance (all organisations that operate in a specific region / locality).

A list of existing local alliances can be found at: www.dementiaaction.org.uk/local_alliances

To join you need to draft a short Action Plan. The Action Plan is a public statement of the actions you are committing to and will be added to the Dementia Action Alliance website alongside the commitments of other Alliance members. You will then be asked to provide quarterly updates on the progress you are making on your plan.

Members of the DAA are invited to make a financial contribution or a contribution in kind, but are not under any obligation to do so.

How do you draft an Action Plan?

To draft your Action Plan, please complete the following Action Plan template www.dementiaaction.org.uk/assets/0000/3598/National_Dementia_Action_Plan_Template_0813_F.doc

Please return it in word format to dementiaactionalliance@alzheimers.org.uk

It will then be passed across to a local DAA Coordinator or processed centrally.

Possible actions to include in your Action Plan (Bullet points)

- Providing information and advice on housing
- Working with partners to ensure that housing is included within Joint Strategic Needs Assessments
- Work with partners to redirect spending from acute and long-term sectors into provision of support in people's own homes, including handyperson, information, advice and adaptation services
- Implementing the latest design principles, guides and guidelines covering homes, care environments and the wider environment to ensure they are dementia-friendly
- Partnership working between local authorities, housing developers and housing associations to ensure a mixed economy of housing options.
- Providing specialist housing for people with dementia, and working to ensure all aspects are tailored to be dementia friendly
- Raising awareness and understanding of dementia amongst residents, encouraging them to become dementia friends
- Becoming a dementia-friendly organisation by training all staff in supporting people with dementia to the level necessary for their roles, and providing support and leadership
- Facilitating the early identification and detection of dementia, signposting and supporting people through the process
- Providing personalised support to people with dementia and their families, working with other professionals to enable them to live independently in their own homes for as long as they wish to, including end-of-life care
- Offering group activities for residents and people living in the wider community, including those with dementia
- Working in partnership with other local organisations and networks to actively promote dementia-friendliness in the local community
- Providing a venue for a range of activities and services for people with dementia

For more information visit:

www.housinglin.org.uk/_library/Resources/Housing/Support_materials/Briefings/Briefing29_dementia_strategy.pdf

www.housinglin.org.uk/_library/Resources/Housing/OtherOrganisation/Dementia_-_Finding_housing_solutions.pdf

www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?fileID=1452

To view other members Action Plans visit: www.dementiaaction.org.uk