Do you have resources to share?
Members are often searching for useful information on dementia to help improve their services or to provide to people affected by dementia. Do you have any resources that we could upload to our website so that information is in one accessible place for visitors? Please send links to reports, case studies etc. to the National Secretariat.

DAA Webinar Series
We are pleased to be continuing our successful webinar series where members share their expertise and insights on all issues relevant to improving the lives of people with dementia. Each session will cover a different topic ranging from cancer to occupational therapy and dementia advisers. If you would like to present a webinar please contact the Secretariat For information and to register, please visit our website.

DAA Annual Event
If you are a member of the DAA and would like to attend this year’s Annual Event on 2nd December 2014, please click here to register. If you would like to be a Supporter of the Annual Event or have a stall please also click here.

Support Carers
Show your support for family carers. Sign up to the Dementia Action Alliance’s Carers’ Call to Action.

Online Action Plan updating
Please can all Local and National members update their Action Plans online? Local members, if you cannot remember your logins please contact your Local Co-ordinator.

Photos
If any Local or National members have any photos that have been taken through the work of the DAA, please email them to the Secretariat! These will then be used in DAA material including the website.

New contact details?
If you or a colleague has changed contact details or left the organisation, please let the Secretariat know so that we can update our records.

New Members
Please see a list of our newest members who we warmly welcome:

Local members:
- Age UK Thanet Ltd
- Birmingham City Council
- Chase Cross Medical Centre
- Corporate Partnership and Policy Team, LB Richmond upon Thames
- Gentoo Group
- Halifax Community Bank Romford
- HAVCO
- Hornchurch Nursing Home
- Lench’s Trust
- London Borough of Havering, Adult Social Care, Adult Commissioning Team
- Marks and Spencer, Upminster
- Meadowside Family Health Centre
- Moss and Coleman Solicitors
- Occupation Arts
- Pinney Talfourd Solicitors
- Saint Francis Hospice
- Solihull Community Housing
- Stagecoach London
- Straight Road Doctors Surgery
- Support Staffordshire Cannock Chase
- The Greenwood Practice
- United Response
- Walled Garden, Bedfords Park
- Willows Care Home

DAA at a glance

October 2014
Total membership = 2,005
Total actions = 7,454
Total Local Dementia Action Alliances = 111
New resource from NICE Collaborating for Social Care (NCCSC)

A decline in mental wellbeing should not be viewed as an inevitable part of ageing. People who live in care homes need the opportunity to take part in meaningful activity and to have access to good mental and physical health services so that they can take part in the daily life of the care home community. A tailored resource for managers of care homes for older people, a new web resource from the NICE Collaborating for Social Care (NCCSC), explains how older people can be supported to maintain their mental wellbeing. The resource will help care home managers to put NICE’s quality standard on mental wellbeing of older people in care homes into practice. It highlights key messages for care providers for each of the six quality statements that make up the standard and provides advice and links to resources to help care homes make improvements. Case studies give examples of how outcomes were improved by focusing on a person’s needs.

You may also be interested in Mental wellbeing of older people in care homes, a film from the NCCSC.

For more information, visit NCCSC’s website.

Brutally honest film Living with Dementia

A new, brutally honest film reminds us that although dementia causes the loss of some abilities, people’s feelings remain intact. Four people with dementia talk, in the Social Care TV film, about their emotions: fear, guilt, embarrassment, isolation, powerlessness. They give a deeply moving and personal insight into an often overlooked aspect of the condition. The film shows what differences can be made when there’s a supportive relationship with the person involved in dementia care. The film is a powerful reminder of the importance of getting to know the person with advancing dementia as an individual and to help support them to maintain their own identity. People living with dementia can still be alert and aware of their condition, so it is essential to respect and empathise with people’s emotions.

The film will be useful for everyone involved in dementia care; care staff, trainers, social workers, managers, care providers, nursing staff, carers, families and friends of people with dementia.

For more information, visit SCIE’s website.

Players support Dementia Adventure with £100,000

Dementia Adventure provides adventures for people living with dementia and their carers, ranging from holidays to park walks. Thanks to the generous support of players of People’s Postcode Lottery Dementia Adventure is expanding its park walk programme. Please watch the film to see the benefits of this work in Redbridge this year.

For further information, visit People’s Postcode Lottery.

Research to develop ways to reduce the risk of falls and minimise sleep disturbance in people with dementia

Healthcare Management Trust and Alzheimer’s Society are pleased to announce two new projects funded by the Trust to deliver their joint ambitions to improve the care and quality of life for people with dementia. A total of £235,000 has been invested in the projects.

Thanks to a grant from Healthcare Management Trust, new research will be undertaken into reducing the risk of falls for adults with a mild cognitive impairment. The project, supported by Alzheimer’s Society, will be delivered through a 3 year clinical training fellowship at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust by Victoria Booth, a Senior Physiotherapist.

Various studies have reported that if an older adult has dementia they are more at risk of falls. This project seeks to establish whether we can identify and treat older adults with a mild cognitive impairment who are at risk of falling.

A second research project funded by The Healthcare Management Trust will be conducted at King’s College London to understand the prevalence of sleep disturbance for people with dementia living in care homes, and develop and evaluate a night-time care programme to reduce the impact of this symptom. The project, supported by Alzheimer’s Society, will allow a PhD student under the supervision of leading expert Dr Anne Corbett to conduct the research over the next three years.

For more information, visit Healthcare Management Trust’s website.

Age UK launch new campaign

Age UK recently launched their first annual ‘End Pensioner Poverty Week’ to draw attention to the impact of low benefit take-up amongst older people, many of whom are living in poverty. Read the report here, which carefully details the persistence of pensioner poverty in this country and makes specific calls to action for national and local government.
Age UK are calling for the following:

- The Government to introduce a Pensioner Poverty strategy, with clear targets to end pensioner poverty
- The Government to increase benefit take up by promoting pensioner benefits and changing the way benefits are administered to help older people to claim
- Local authority and NHS staff to improve signposting (and provide appropriate funding for such initiatives) so that older people are encouraged to claim their benefits

**National call for Mental Capacity Act**

Social Care Institute of Excellence (SCIE) have launched a national call for Mental Capacity Act (MCA).

This represents one of the Government’s major commitments from their response to the House of Lords Select Committee Inquiry on the MCA. If we are to raise awareness of the MCA and improve its implementation it is vital that we are able to refer colleagues and stakeholders to a reliable source of best practice materials. Department of Health strongly felt that the best materials are those created by professionals working at, or close to, the front-line of the NHS and social care – hence this approach. In due course, the materials identified by this national call will be placed on a dedicated website for wide access.

Please submit all relevant materials to SCIE – the success of this initiative depends on your responses. Please submit your materials e.g. information leaflets for service users and their families, guidance for professionals, documents for recording and/ or guiding capacity assessments, audit tools – anything you find useful in your role.

Please submit your materials by Friday 7 November 2014. For more information, visit SCIE’s website.

**NICE Safe Staffing Guidelines Advisory Committee (SSAC) recruitment for standing members**

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has been commissioned to develop safe staffing guidelines and they are currently recruiting standing Committee members. This includes lay members as well as those with a professional or practitioner background in the topic.

If you or your colleagues would like to apply, there are more details on the NICE website for ‘lay’ and ‘professional’ or ‘practitioner’ applicants. The deadline for applications is 03/12/14.

If your organisation is not registered as a stakeholder, please visit the registration page on the NICE website.

For more information please email Amanda Chandler

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**About the DAA**

The Secretariat is based at Devon House, 58 St Katharine’s Way, London, E1W 1LB and can be contacted at dementiaactionalliance@alzheimers.org.uk

To visit the Dementia Action Alliance’s website, please go to www.dementiaaction.org.uk

Follow us on twitter @dementia_action

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**Thanks for keeping us updated!**

Action Plans are live documents that members use to pledge commitments and hold each other to account on fulfilling them. To be a member of the DAA you are expected to have an up-to-date action plan. The DAA Secretariat provide regular updates to the Board on progress.

If you require login details or further instructions email: dementiaactionalliance@alzheimers.org.uk

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**Twitter**

Follow us @dementia_action and tweet about what is happening in your local area or organisation! #dementiaaction

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**Finance**

If you would like to provide a voluntary contribution or in-kind support for the year 2014-2015 please do so in the last page of the Annual Report template.

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**Venues**

Lastly, if you have a venue that we could use as in-kind support please do let us know at dementiaactionalliance@alzheimers.org.uk