

## **Dementia Action Alliance Action Plan**

### **Guidance note**

This note states why and how Police Forces can improve the lives of people with dementia. It also provides guidance on how they can join the Dementia Action Alliance and publically state their commitment through developing an Action Plan.

### **Why is dementia important to you?**

Dementia is a disease of the brain which can affect memory, everyday tasks, communication and perception. It is not a result of the normal ageing process.

There are over 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK and this figure is set to rise. 225,000 people develop dementia every year, that's roughly one person every three minutes. (Alzheimer's Society 2014)

People with dementia face many challenges going about their daily lives. These include becoming disorientated, being victims of crime or abuse and going missing. When they face difficulties, it adds to their stress, and can lead to people reducing, or giving up, their community involvement and becoming isolated.

Data from Sussex suggest that one in fifteen missing person enquiries are for people with Dementia (Alzheimer's Society, Dementia UK: Update, Second edition, November 2014). The average cost of finding a missing person is £1,325 – £2,415 (Centre for Missing Persons Studies, 2012)

Unfortunately people's lack of understanding and impatience can make these problems worse. The police have an important role to play by protecting people living with dementia and ensuring they continue to live their lives and be an active part of their communities for as long as possible.

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?**

By joining the Dementia Action Alliance and developing a short Action Plan, you can become part of the national movement to improve the lives of people living with dementia.

### **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.

### **Join the Dementia Action Alliance**

Dementia is everyone's responsibility. By joining your local Dementia Action Alliance you can have regular contact with likeminded 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.

To join a local Dementia Action Alliance you just need to draft a short Action Plan. The Action Plan is a public statement of how your organisation is working to improve the lives of people with dementia.

### **Draft an Action Plan**

The section overleaf provides guidance on how suggested content for each question and simple actions you may wish to commit to improve the lives of people living with dementia.

## Question template

**1) What could your organisation do to ensure people with dementia and/or their carers receive the best possible service? For example:**

*We will do this by focusing on the following six areas:-*

- *Protecting vulnerable people*
- *Dealing with those who cause most harm*
- *Effectively deploying our people*
- *Working with partners to solve locally identified problems*
- *Trusting our people to use their judgement to make good decisions*
- *Ensuring effective and efficient use of resources.*

**2) What are the difficulties you foresee in getting your organisation to a point where you can meet the actions described in question 1? For example:**

*The challenges in meeting these outcomes are as follows:-*

- *Maintaining a focus on a single disability issue in a way which does not create separate structures but embeds the work into existing processes.*
- *Substantial public sector budgetary cuts provide an environment in which new ways of influencing and tackling work needs to be identified.*
- *Understanding that other agencies/organisations are also in times of budgetary constraints.*
- *Developing learning processes which are cost effective and sustainable, but also impactful.*
- *Understanding how different roles within the organisation can have an effective part in creating dementia friendly communities.*
- *Influencing other police forces to commit to the work within existing structures.*

**3) Please give one or more actions you/your organisation will commit to take to overcome the difficulties described above? For example:**

- *Develop an information toolkit on dementia relevant to policing.*
- *Work with local authorities, NHS and other partner agencies to ensure our safety messages and leaflets aimed at people with dementia and their carers are distributed to people with dementia and their carers.*
- *Hold a workshop/conference with carers and people with dementia to ensure further information and tips on safety and policing and dementia are promoted.*
- *Contribute to the work of Leicester Dementia Action Alliance to support the creation of any dementia friendly communities in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.*
- *Work with the Alzheimer's Society and Age UK to develop either emergency cards or keep safe cards for people with dementia and older people.*
- *Identifying an appropriate person to represent issues of dementia on our Disability Independent Advisory group.*
- *Creating an e-version of information on dementia to sit on the internal intranet.*



- *To work with the Alzheimer's Society to hold a specific event with people with dementia and their carers to identify issues which policing can impact upon.*
- *To develop guidance for staff on dementia and signpost the supportive HR policies for carers.*
- *To continue to monitor missing from homes to identify how dementia impact on those who go wandering.*
- *Periodic reinforcement and advertising of communication tips for people with disabilities, including the leaflet developed for communicating with people with dementia.*
- *To develop communication messages to creating dementia friendly communities for the equality Unit and the Chief Constable to utilise on social media.*
- *Sharing good practice developed within police force and nationally via ACPO networks, to all police forums.*
- *To continue with the work identified by the dementia cat 1 and cat 2 training given by the PCT.*

**4) What networks or communication channels are available to your organisation that could help us to spread the word about the National Dementia Declaration?**

For example:

- *Promote dementia friendly approaches in our newsletters, and talk about the Alliance*
- *Let other organisations know what we are doing so they can do it too,*
- *Develop good practice with other organisations locally*