

Dementia-Friendly Housing Charter

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What we will cover today

- Prime Minister's Challenge on dementia
- Why is housing important to people living with dementia
- Vision and scope
- Involving people with dementia
- Charter content
- Case studies
- Committing to the Charter

Prime Minister's Challenge

How far have we come?

2012

- 20 communities working to become dementia friendly
- 10% of England covered by a Local Dementia Action Alliance
- Low awareness and understanding
- Low Local Authority engagement



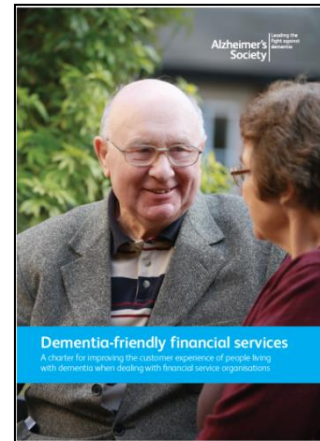
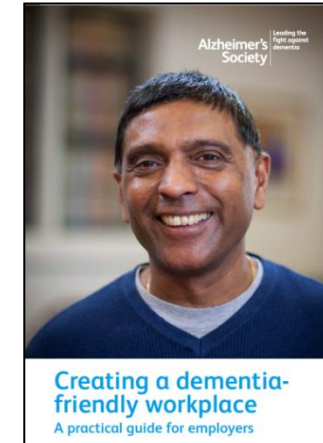
2017

- 240 communities working to become dementia friendly
- 75% of England is covered by a Local Dementia Action Alliance
- Nearly 2 million Dementia Friends
- 55 Local Authorities currently registered under DAA and DFC

Previous guides and charters

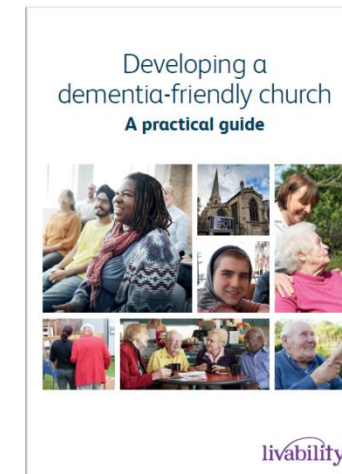
Current outputs:

- Dementia-friendly housing charter
- Dementia-friendly Financial Services Charter
- Dementia-friendly Employers' Guide
- Dementia-friendly Arts Venue Guide
- Dementia-friendly Technology Charter
- Accessing and Sharing Information publication
- Dementia-friendly Retail Guide
- Dementia-friendly Church Guide



Upcoming projects / outputs:

- Dementia-friendly Heritage Guide
- Dementia-friendly Cinema Guide
- Dementia-friendly Air Transport
- Dementia-friendly Sport Venues Guide



Why is housing important to people living with dementia?

- Two-thirds of people with dementia live in the community, mostly in mainstream housing
- People with dementia in the community want support to help them maintain their independence
- It is widely recognised that much of existing housing is poorly suited to the needs of older people and people with dementia in particular
- Where people with dementia have moved into specialist housing they identify benefits
- Housing with care can play an important role in supporting people with dementia and fill a gap between mainstream homes and care homes

Home truths: Housing services and support for people with Dementia (2012)

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Key facts



There is only enough specialist housing to accommodate 5% of the over 65 population.

Two-thirds of people with dementia live in the community, mostly in mainstream housing, a third live on their own, predominantly in the owner occupied sector.



2 million older households are living in non-decent homes.



95% of homes lack even basic accessibility features.



Home adaptations improved the quality of life for 90% of recipients as well as for carers.

An Alzheimer's Society's report found that more needed to be done to ensure homes were designed and built with the needs of people affected by dementia in mind.



What 'home' means to people with dementia

- Connectedness
- Actively personalising and creating home
- Control over decisions about how and where we live
- Locality - the importance of familiarity; the sense of connection to people and places
- Cultural expectations and needs

Beyond the Front Door (2016) Life Story Network

Vision and scope of the charter

- To engage with a wide range of stakeholders within the housing sector to encourage increased awareness of the contribution of housing to the challenges posed by dementia.
- To provide the relevant resources and examples of good practice to encourage their integration into all aspects of people (staff), places and processes.
- Aimed at the full range of professionals working in the housing sector, from planners and architects to landlords and developers, housing managers and handypersons.
- Designed to help all professionals support people living with dementia in their homes and facilitate consistency and good practice.

Involving people with dementia in this charter

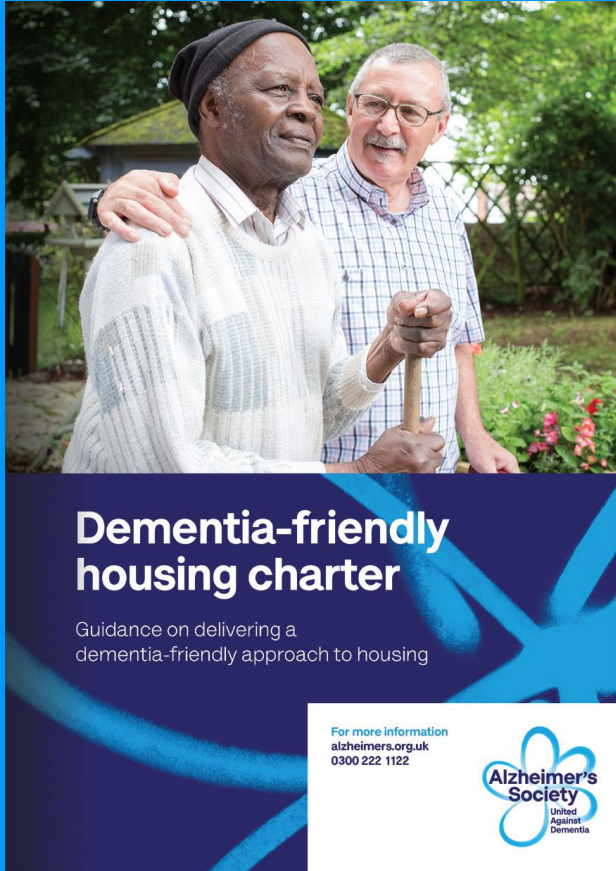
Attending Service User Review Panels across the UK to understand what was important to people living with dementia when it comes to housing.

Key points were:

- To be enabled to live where you are familiar and are happy living
- Design – wet rooms, few steps, open plan layout, signage, sockets at arms level
- Technology - Provide sensors/alarms for cooking, sensor lights
- Staff need to have knowledge and a broad awareness of dementia
- Accommodation needs to meet people's needs as their dementia progresses and needs to be suitable for adaptations to be made as needed.

Successes of this charter

- Evaluation factored in from the beginning
- Working document
- Very clear focus
- Included a broad range of organisations
- Used existing network for launch and dissemination
- Involving people with dementia to shape the commitments



Bringing together existing resources and research

Aimed at:

- Supporting people with dementia to live independently
- Helping housing professionals in their support of people living with dementia in their own homes

Provides access to:

- The knowledge to plan and prepare for future projects, developments and services by influencing initial design and planning of future housing stock
- Knowledge and resources to make relevant ongoing adaptations and repairs to current housing stock to support people with dementia

Showcases:

- Case studies across the sector

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Case studies

Waltham Forest HA

A small, locally-based housing association providing predominantly sheltered housing. As many as 14% of their tenants live with dementia. To become more dementia-friendly, they have:

- Appointed Dementia Champions
- All staff on the Board and the main contractors became Dementia Friends
- Audited properties as part of estate inspections and support planning resulting in an internal action plan
- Set up Waltham Forest Dementia Action Alliance
- introduced the Sunshine Club to raise awareness with tenants at fun sessions
- Developed a dementia-friendly specification for works on empty properties
- Incorporated dementia design into our cyclical and planned maintenance programmes.

Leyton Orient FC, have dedicated a match to raising awareness of dementia for three years.

Case studies

Midland Heart

Provides and maintains 32,000 homes - a mix of general needs, specialist housing, and support and care services.

The organisation has taken a holistic approach to being dementia-friendly by:

- Developing a dementia strategy;
- Raising awareness among staff, residents and communities through imaginative events;
- Developing roadshows with its customer panel
- Employing external trainers for specialist staff

It is also now exploring the potential for a partnership approach to training and supporting staff with Worcester University's Association of Dementia Studies.

It also makes use of a 1950s dementia pod to stimulate memories and conversation; and is looking to train staff in 'design and build' principles via Stirling University.

The three pillars

| People | Places | Processes |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Staff who manage properties;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Landlords• People providing services such as modifications and adaptations• Repairs• Home maintenance• Handyperson services• Architects and planners | <p>The creation and maintenance of suitable housing which incorporates space and design can support people living with dementia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Includes the interior and exterior of buildings | <p>Housing systems and infrastructure used in all residential provision, planning, design and development and housing-related services such as repairs, maintenance, adaptations and management. Processes designed to reduce barriers.</p> |

Stakeholders

| Stakeholders | Explanation | Occupations |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Designing and building | From inception through design to ready to occupy | Planners, architects, building control, facilities or property management, designers, developers. |
| Managing and supporting | The daily running activities of all housing tenures | Landlords, developers, housing managers, occupational health, facilities or property management. |

Stakeholders (continued)

| Stakeholders | Explanation | Occupations |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Modifying and adapting | The modification, repair and adaptation of housing and the built environment to meet changing needs | Occupational therapists, community equipment or telecare providers, handypersons, environmental health officers, home improvement agencies, builders, technical officers and architects |

Commitment Statements

People

- To identifying people affected by dementia who need support
- To understanding the needs of people
- To signposting/navigation/advice and information

Place

- To navigation / setting
- To raising awareness

Processes

- To applicability
- To communication
- To greater information and support for people with dementia to access housing options

Commitment Statements

Place

Commitments to navigation / setting

The services required for people to stay in their own homes are not widely known and therefore not accessed or offered

Staff need to know what options are available locally for care and support at home.

There is a lack of appropriate adaptations in properties to provide a more dementia-friendly environment

Communication of the principles and ways for home adaptations to be more dementia-friendly (for example Alzheimer's Society 'Making your home dementia-friendly' and Stirling University booklet '10 helpful hints for dementia design at home'). Ensure dementia design principles (and other relevant design) are incorporated, including people living in their own homes.

Why sign up to the charter?

- Demonstrate leadership within the sector by proactively addressing the societal challenges posed by an increasing incidence of dementia
- Increase awareness of how dementia and its challenges affect the services and products which an organisation offers
- Ensure that the needs of customers are met in a consistent and appropriate manner
- Create an organisation in which customers feel comfortable discussing their needs
- Be perceived by partners as dementia-friendly which may enhance reputation

Committing to the charter

Sign up to the Housing Charter and commitments

- Sign up through the Alzheimer's Society website
- Publicly announce delivery on the relevant Charter commitment statements
- Specific actions to be incorporated into the Dementia Action Alliance action plan, if applicable.

Deliver the commitments specific to your stakeholder group within a set, individually determined and planned time-frame

- Select a senior member of staff to champion the initiative and ensure that the appropriate delivery plan is established and progressed
- Evidence and report back on progress and outcomes of the identified commitment statements.

What can you do now?

- Sign up to the charter via Alzheimer's Society website alzheimers.org.uk/housingcharter
- Make a plan for your colleagues to become Dementia Friends – register your organisation at dementiafriends.org.uk/register-partner-admin
- Sign up to Dementia Words Matter and find out more through the [Dementia Voices](http://DementiaVoices.org.uk) website.

If you can help us to engage with relevant housing sector organisations and to disseminate the Dementia Friendly Housing Charter, please email sara-jane.little@alzheimers.org.uk

Acknowledgements

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Your Life
Causeway Service User Review Panel
Chichester Positive thinkers
League of Minds
North Somerset Living With Dementia Group
South Eastern/Belfast SURP group

Questions?

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