

Mental Health News

National Dementia Strategy

The Mental Health News e-bulletin is a daily bulletin issued by the Mental Health Improvement Programme (MHIP) containing an item relating to a Mental Health issue, development or outcome in the North West.

The aim is to bring awareness to our stakeholders about service improvement and innovative projects underway in Mental Health across the North West, and to encourage you (the reader) to act as vehicle for ensuring that your organisation is engaged with the work where applicable.

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In February 2009 the Department of Health the National Dementia Strategy (NDS). The NDS has 17 objectives and covers 4 core themes:

- The vision for dementia services
- Raising awareness and understanding
- Early Diagnosis and support
- Living Well with Dementia

The aim of the strategy is to ensure that significant improvements are made to dementia services.

Dementia presents a huge challenge nationally to society and here in the North West. There are currently 700,000 people in the UK living with dementia, approximately 540,000 of these living in England. Here in the North West there are an estimated 77,778 people. The nature of the aging population will see an increase in these numbers in the coming years which will pose a significant challenge to health and social services.

MHIP and the wider programmes within NHS North West (the SHA) will work to see that the NDS is implemented in a positive way. Already we are a key partner in the Joint Improvement Programme for adult social care (the *One Plan*) which is developing a programme to support NDS. In the SHA we see dementia clearly profiled in the programme for Transforming Community Services, End of Life Care and within the Clinical Pathways Group. MHIP will also look to how we can support progress toward the dementia strategy through established performance frameworks and mechanisms.

If you are involved in work related to the national strategy and would like to profile your work or would like to know more NHS North West work please contact: Simon.Rippon@northwest.nhs.uk

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