

## **Gloucestershire Dementia Strategy**

### **Primary Care Engagement**

NHS Gloucestershire has been working with Gloucestershire County Council, 2gether NHS Foundation Trust, the independent sector and voluntary organisations to develop a strategic work programme to drive local implementation of the National Dementia Strategy.

A multi-agency Project Management Board has been established to oversee this programme, and to take responsibility for commissioning high quality, accessible and flexible services to meet the needs and preferences of Gloucestershire's residents as close to home as possible.

A number of work streams are being established in line with the strategy's objectives, and work is already underway in some areas. The National Dementia Strategy highlights that primary care staff, and GPs in particular, play a pivotal role in diagnosing dementia and in subsequently co-ordinating care across a range of services. It stresses that there is a huge responsibility on all primary care staff, including receptionists, pharmacists and practice nurses, to understand and be aware of the symptoms and signs of dementia and to develop explicit referral links between primary care and community support.

An action plan has been produced outlining the key objectives being addressed within primary care. The overarching aims are to raise knowledge and expertise, improve data quality, clarify referral pathways, standardise contractual obligations and define commissioning support packages.

Some of the key initiatives include:

- The appointment of a GP Clinical Lead for Dementia Services
- Awareness raising activities within primary care through a range of communications
- Engagement with primary care staff through a second annual Primary Care Dementia Summit in November. Topics for discussion and debate will include the ethical dilemmas around early diagnosis and support, risks and issues in acute care; and research and development.
- Development of a staff training and education programme
- Engagement with carers to ensure that their needs are identified and supported appropriately
- Working with pharmacy advisers to ensure that medication is provided appropriately within primary care
- Development of the QOF framework to improve the quality of dementia registers and recording, working with Primary Care Managers to include dementia and carers' issues in QOF practice visits

- Development of a care pathway that delivers rapid and early diagnosis and links appropriately to other service areas
- Work to define a chronic disease management plan that reviews change, identifies need and signposts to appropriate services
- Initiatives with Practice Based Commissioning clusters to develop dementia services
- Appropriate communication and links with specialist services, general hospitals and with community hospitals
- Consideration of the end of life needs of people with dementia to ensure they are fully met within primary care, where appropriate
- Inclusion of dementia in all chronic disease programmes such as the stroke, falls and end of life strategies
- Improving information available to patients and carers and evaluation of a Managing Memory Together pilot, with a view to extending this service countywide

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