



Dementia

The term 'dementia' is used to describe the symptoms that occur when the brain is affected by specific conditions, including Alzheimer's disease, stroke, and many other rarer conditions. Dementia is increasingly becoming one of the most important causes of disability in older people. In terms of Global Burden of Disease, it contributes 11.2% of all years lived with disability. This figure is higher than stroke, musculoskeletal disorders, heart disease and cancer.

- The Alzheimer's Society statistics indicate there are currently some 750,000 people living with dementia in the UK. This represents one person in every 88 (1.1%) of the UK population. By 2021, it is estimated there will be over 940,000 people living with dementia and this is predicted to soar to 1.7 million by 2050. This represents a 125% increase in the number of people living with dementia between 2010 and 2050, or a 3% per year increase.
- It is estimated that in Warwickshire, there were around 6,500 people aged over 65 living with dementia in 2010.
- In 2008, 3,353 people in Warwickshire were registered with their GP as having dementia, meaning over 50% of the predicted number of people with dementia are undiagnosed.
- Between 2010 and 2030, it is estimated that the number of older people with dementia in Warwickshire will double, to more than 13,000. The majority of these will be aged 75 and over.
- Currently, in the UK, around two thirds of people with dementia live in private households.
- The Alzheimer's Society estimates that in 2007 the total cost of dementia in the UK was £17 billion per annum, or on average £25,472 per person with late onset dementia.
- It is not currently known how many people with dementia are funding their own care both in residential care and in their own home.

Outcomes Sought

- **Awareness and Understanding:** A key part of understanding mental ill health is to promote positive mental health and also the awareness of dementia and the services to enable individuals to live well. A lack of understanding of dementia can lead to a number of problems including symptoms not being recognised early enough leading to poor access to services and poor outcomes.
- **Early Diagnosis and Support:** Early diagnosis is key to providing the right support to both service users and carers in a timely manner.
- **Living Well with Dementia:** Users and carers highlight that once diagnosed with dementia they require a range of services that fully meet changing needs. Whilst there are already a number of services in Warwickshire that offer both support and services to people living with dementia, it is recognised that there is more to be done to make sure the highest quality support and services are available to people with dementia and their carers.
- **Making the Change:** Service users and carers in Warwickshire have told us that the National Dementia Strategy recommendations for an informed and effective workforce are key to improving services.
- **Transform health care for people with dementia and their families**



What are we going to do about it?

- Joint Director of Public Health Report 2010: Best Health for Older People in Warwickshire p30/31
- Living Well with Dementia in Warwickshire
- National Dementia Strategy
- Dementia UK - Alzheimer's Report
- A Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens
- Putting People First
- Think Local Act Personal

Who Needs to Know This?

- Commissioners in Public Health and Social Care
- Third sector organisations supporting vulnerable older people
- GPs and other health professionals

