

Launch:

National Dementia Strategy

"Living well with dementia: a National Dementia Strategy" was published: on 3rd February 2009 It sets out initiatives designed to make the lives of people with dementia, their carers and families better and more fulfilled.

The strategy aims to increase awareness of dementia, ensure early diagnosis and intervention and improve the quality of care that people with the condition receive. It provides a strategic framework within which local services can

- deliver quality improvements to dementia services and address health inequalities relating to dementia;
- provide advice and guidance and support for health and social care commissioners and providers in the planning, development and monitoring of services; and
- provide a guide to the content of high-quality services for dementia.

Proposals include the introduction of a dementia specialist into every general hospital and care home and for mental health teams to assess people with dementia.

The published documents include an accessible summary; an implementation plan; an impact assessment and an equality impact assessment. Also published were a series of other documents:

Consultation on a National Dementia Strategy – background and findings of the Department held consultation held as part of the development of a National Dementia Strategy.

Worried About Your Memory campaign (Alzheimer's Society)

- prompts and helps people to consider if their forgetfulness, or that of a friend or relative, is due to just poor memory or the beginning of a medical problem and encourage them to seek medical advice.

Improving services and support for people with dementia – links to reports that have emphasised the need to enhance joint health and social care mental health teams in the community so people with dementia and their families and carers get the help and support they need.

Improving services and support for people with dementia – a toolkit that provides good practice guidance for practitioners and commissioners on how to engage and communicate with people who have dementia.

Short breaks fact sheet - provides commissioners, providers and planners with information on a variety of models of short breaks including principles that will enable the outcomes specified by service users and their carers to be met and alternatives to the traditional approach to providing short breaks in a care home.

All reports can be accessed at: <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/SocialCare/Deliveringadultsocialcare/Olderpeople/NationalDementiaStrategy/index.htm>

Enhancing the Healing Environment: dementia care

- applications are invited from NHS trusts who provide mental health and learning disabilities services to join a new programme to improve the environment for people with dementia. This Department of Health funded initiative follows the success of The King's Fund's award-winning Enhancing the Healing Environment programme in 150 trusts throughout England.

Applications for the 10 places available in 2009 may be made by trusts that provide mental health and learning disabilities services to people with dementia. The closing date for applications is 12:00 midday, Friday 27 February 2009.