

JSNA newsflash

Dementia – A State of the Nation Report on Dementia Care and Support

The Department of Health recently published the report: **Dementia – A state of the nation report on dementia care and support**

Around 670,000 people in England have dementia and this number is set to double in the next 30 years. It is estimated that one in three people will care for a person with dementia in their lifetime. Dementia costs £19 billion a year, and this will increase significantly.

Important points from the report are highlighted below.

- There are opportunities for prevention. Dementia is not inevitable. The effects of vascular dementia (one form of dementia) can be minimised or prevented through healthy behaviours. Smoking and obesity affect many types of dementia, in particular vascular dementia. The message is: what is good for the heart is good for the brain Future research efforts include a focus on prevention.
- Timely diagnosis of dementia matters-helping people with dementia and their carers have access to treatment and support that can help maintain independence and quality of life. However currently less than half of people with dementia in England (48 percent) have a formal diagnosis or have contact with specialist services.
- High numbers of people with dementia occupy acute hospital beds (around 25 percent of hospital beds). Increasing numbers of acute hospitals are improving overall care through increasing the detection and diagnosis of people with dementia who are admitted to hospital.
- Creating dementia-friendly communities involves raising public understanding and challenging attitudes towards dementia. Dementia is the condition people over the age of 55 fear most - more than cancer or heart disease. Increasing numbers of communities are signing up to become dementia-friendly communities.

Read the full report here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dementia-care-and-support>

What does this mean for Richmond?

- The NHS Health Check programme offers advice and support to help people aged 40-74 make changes that can reduce the risk of ill health, including dementia.
- Nearly one per cent of the Richmond population are estimated to have dementia (approximately 1860 individuals). Around 50% of the estimated number of people with dementia has received a formal diagnosis, which is similar to the national average. Locally a goal has been set of achieving a diagnosis rate of 66% by 2015 - in line with the national goal.
- The hospitals serving Richmond residents are improving dementia care - proactively finding more people who have dementia, assessing their risk and referring them for further investigations.
- Richmond Council and CCG are committed to working with partners to make Richmond a dementia-friendly community. This includes the funding of the Alzheimer's Society to work with a full range of leisure and cultural organisations to provide increased opportunities for people with dementia and their carers. A Dementia Action Alliance has been set up comprising a range of local business and public sector organisations, to help businesses become dementia-friendly with training support.

Contact details

Public Health Team

JSNA@richmond.gov.uk

We welcome feedback and are continually reviewing processes and products.

As new information becomes available, we aim to rapidly distribute with a local commentary via our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) newsflashes. We'd welcome your feedback. Please send your comments directly to JSNA@richmond.gov.uk or to the Public Health Team.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessments for the borough of Richmond are available at www.richmond.gov.uk/jsna.

