

Buckinghamshire Joint Health and Well-Being Board Strategy: Age Well/Mental Health Action Plan

Health and Wellbeing Board Performance Hub Metric: Increase the proportion of people aged over 65 with dementia that have been diagnosed

Action: Improve the detection and formal diagnosis of dementia

Rationale: ‘One in six people over the age of 80 in the UK live with dementia and 80% of people in care homes have dementia or severe memory problems. The number of people living with dementia in the UK is predicted to rise to over one million people by 2024. However, many of these individuals are yet to receive a formal diagnosis. Dementia is a key priority for NHS England who have agreed a national ambition for diagnosis rates to ensure that two thirds of the estimated number of people with dementia in England should have a diagnosis with appropriate post-diagnostic support. Accessing a diagnosis of dementia is important to afford individuals increased understanding of their condition, allow for future planning and enable access to support. Timely diagnosis also prevents health and social care crises and ensures access to evidence-based treatments that allow those with dementia to ‘live well’ with the condition.’

Ref	Detailed Actions	Lead	Dates	Baseline	Progress data
	Embed the new memory assessment (delivered by Oxford Health) service model within community mental health	Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust	2023 - 2024	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in number of people that the services assess • Reduction in wait time for assessment
	Embed the DiADeM (a tool to help professionals diagnose dementia for people living with symptoms of dementia in a care home setting, who do not have a formal diagnosis). pilot in Buckinghamshire and ensure successful deployment across care home settings. Seek further opportunities for longer term sustainability beyond the project end date of May 2024	Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust	May 2023 – May 2024	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the dementia diagnostic rate within the care and nursing home setting – data captured as part of project

	Expand the availability of access to a diagnosis for dementia by offering assessment via other healthcare settings including: community assessment and treatment services (CATS), Multi-Disciplinary day assessment unit (MUDAS) and psychiatric liaison services (PLS).	Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust	2023-2025	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of people assessed for dementia through CATS, MUDAS and PLS
	Deliver routine dementia screening training to our community health and care workforce to enable them to identify the signs and symptoms of the condition and where appropriate refer for further assessment. This could include social prescribers, care co-ordinators, mental health practitioners, paramedics and nurses.	Dementia Support Service (Alzheimer's Society) Buckinghamshire Integrated Care Board Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust	2023-2025	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of professionals in the community that can screen for dementia
	Increase the uptake of pre and post diagnostic support to improve the awareness of the signs and symptoms of dementia	Alzheimer's society	2023-2025	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of Buckinghamshire residents supported by the Alzheimer's society through the dementia support service • Quarterly Memory Information Sessions are delivered across the county by the DSS.
	Improve and increase the awareness of the dementia toolkit	Buckinghamshire Council	2023-2025	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of visits to the website page. • Provide current and up to date information

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Social Care are routinely promoting the toolkit as part of their care act assessments
	Increase the number of screening assessments undertaken within care home settings by primary care networks	Buckinghamshire Primary Care Networks	2023-2025	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Source – EMIS enterprise • Increase in the number of people screened
	Commitment by Public Health and Primary Care to provide a renewed focus on increasing the take-up of the NHS Health check for eligible 40–74-year-olds.	Public Health	2023-2025	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A memory question should be part of all health checks and a more consistent approach to the information provided to patients as part of the health check
	To include risks associated with dementia as part of all relevant public health campaigns,	Public Health	2023-2025	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A particular focus on cardiovascular disease, so people make the connection that lifestyle choices affect both the heart and the brain