



Post-diagnostic dementia support to switch to community health and care teams

Post-diagnostic support for people recently diagnosed with dementia will be changing from this summer.

Support is currently provided by Alzheimer Scotland but new arrangements will be put in place from the end of June, when support will transfer to community health and social care teams.

What is post-diagnostic support?

High-quality post-diagnostic support over an extended period is essential to equip people living with dementia, their families and carers with the connections, resources and plans they need to live as well as possible and prepare for the future.

Improving the way this is delivered is one of the commitments in Scotland's National Dementia Strategy, published in June 2017.

The 5-Pillar Model of support advocated by Alzheimer Scotland, which we will follow, comprises:

Alzheimer Scotland 5-Pillar Model
Supporting community connections – support to maintain and develop social networks
Peer support – from other people with dementia, their families and carers to help come to terms with the illness and maintain wellbeing and resilience
Planning for future care – support, when they are ready, to plan the shape of their future care from their own perspective together with those around them, developing a personal plan with their choices, hopes and aspirations which can guide professionals
Understanding the illness and managing the symptoms – support to come to terms with dementia and learn about self-management of the condition
Planning for future decision-making – support to set up powers of attorney and deal with other legal issues

What are we doing in Aberdeen?

Post-diagnostic support will, from June, be delivered by integrated community health and care teams, service providers and the teams responsible for the systems to deliver the support.

We will be training relevant Partnership staff, and staff from partner organisations, to enable them to provide high-quality care and support that meets people individual needs.

Services will be designed with help and advice from people who are receiving support services and those who are caring for, or have cared for, someone with dementia.

We will be providing post-diagnostic support in an equitable way, so that everyone in all parts of the city has equal access as close to their community as possible.

What happens in the short term?

We will be working with Alzheimer Scotland up to the end of June to make sure the transition of care and support is as smooth as possible.

Alzheimer Scotland is informing people receiving support that the service they receive will be changing.

We appreciate that change can be unsettling but we are more than willing to spend time speaking to people receiving support services, and their families and carers, to reassure them. We have established a dedicated telephone number and email address for people to contact us – 01224 522520, email PDS@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

People can also continue to access Alzheimer Scotland services at the King Street resource centre at 13-19 King Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5AA, tel 0808 808 3000.

What will happen in the medium term?

We know that post-diagnostic support does not sit in isolation from the wider issues facing people diagnosed with dementia.

The forthcoming change in the ways in which we deliver this support will be part of an overarching Local Dementia Plan, which will cover a range of issue and which we will be developing over this summer.

How will we know we are making a difference?

We know we can improve our performance – and this is why we are redesigning our service.

We will measure our progress against quality standards created by Healthcare Improvement Scotland.