

## **Dementia: BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET**

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### **1. About Alzheimer's Society**

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- 1.1. Alzheimer's Society is the UK's leading support services and research charity for people with dementia and those who care for them. We work across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Society provides information and support to people with all forms of dementia and those who care for them through its publications, dementia helplines and local services.
- 1.2. We run quality care services, advise professionals and campaign for improved health and social care and greater public awareness and understanding of dementia. We have also recently become the biggest funder of dementia research in the UK.

### **2. Dementia statistics in Bath and North East Somerset**

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- 2.1. According to the most recent figures (February 2018) there are currently estimated to be 2,574 people in Bath and North East Somerset who currently have dementia.
- 2.2. Of these people, only 1,593 have a diagnosis giving an effective diagnosis rate of 61.9%, which is well below the 66.7% target set by NHS England and below the West of England average (67.3%) and the South West average (62.2%).
- 2.3. This diagnosis rate has been increasing over the past 12 months, and saw a particular spike in August, which coincided with a concerted effort to diagnose people in care homes.
- 2.4. The prevalence of dementia in September 2017 was 0.8%, which is the same as the England average and lower than the South West average of 0.9%.
- 2.5. The prevalence of dementia in over 65s was 4.06% in September 2017, which is lower than the England average (4.33%) and roughly in line with the South West average of 4.08%.
- 2.6. Due to the methodology, prevalence is less accurate in places with lower diagnosis rates. The prevalence could be higher in Bath and North East Somerset.
- 2.7. The quality of care in Bath and North East Somerset is varied with some of the indicators that are positive, and others which are cause for concern.
- 2.8. Emergency admissions to hospital is an indicator of poor care day to day and in B&NES the rates of emergency admissions for people with dementia is lower than the England and South West average.

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- 2.9. However, the percentage of residential care and nursing home beds rating good or outstanding is only just over half, as compared with 62.4% across the South West region.
- 2.10. We know that people with dementia feel less stressed when they are in a familiar environment, and so it is good to see that the percentage of people with dementia who pass away in their usual place of residence is 82.2%. This compares very favourably to the Regional and England average.

### **3. Alzheimer's Society in Bath and North East Somerset**

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- 3.1. Alzheimer's Society delivers services across Bath and North East Somerset. As well as the advice and support that is available to everyone through our advice line, we also provide some commissioned and voluntary funded services.
- 3.2. Our Dementia Support Service is specific to each person's needs and is decided in agreement with them. The service provides one to one support to people with dementia and carers. Dementia Support Workers provide information, guidance and practical support to help people understand dementia, cope with day to day living with dementia and prepare for the future.
- 3.3. The Dementia Support Service saw 568 people, including 506 new referrals, in the year to March 2018, which shows an excellent level of engagement with people who have a diagnosis of dementia.
- 3.4. 87.9% of people referred to the service were contacted within 6 days of referral to ensure timely interventions and support.
- 3.5. 43 of the people with dementia who used our services were of working age (7.5%)
- 3.6. In addition, Alzheimer's Society delivers a Hospital based Side-by-Side scheme at the RUH. This has over 40 active volunteers, with a further 20 being inducted. Following the success of this, we are working to roll out Side-by-Side in the community.
- 3.7. We have four very active singing for the Brain groups and support the Memory Cafés that are run by the community across B&NES.
- 3.8. Alzheimer's Society was the official charity for the 2018 Bath Half Marathon, which was sadly snowed off. However we were delighted to have such a high profile role in the city.

### **4. Becoming more dementia friendly**

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- 4.1. Local Authorities have a huge impact on how residents experience the world. Almost every service that someone with dementia experiences day-to-day when they leave their front door is provided or commissioned by the Council.
- 4.2. The Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia sets a number of targets for Local Authorities including how to make them, and their service delivery, more dementia friendly.
- 4.3. Bath and North East Somerset Council has already made great strides to become more dementia friendly. We were delighted to note the active support of the Dementia Action Alliance, both for B&NES and for Keynsham, and the decision taken at the last Health and Wellbeing Board to formally become a member of the B&NES DAA.

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- 4.4. However, there is more we can do and we would be happy to support you to help you take this commitment to the next step.
- 4.5. We are currently piloting a scheme to deliver Dementia Friends through an online portal that will allow much more flexible roll out. Our pilot Councils are being asked to incorporate this into the training for all their staff, with the aim to ensure all Council staff become Dementia Friends.
- 4.6. In addition Alzheimer's Society has a number of policy papers or advice sheets, such as the Dementia Friendly Housing Charter, that give advice or support for people wanting to operate in a dementia friendly way.

## 5. Dementia statistics across England

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- 5.1. There are 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK and this number is set to rise to 1 million by 2021
- 5.2. The typical person's bill for dementia social care would take 125 years to save for – well over a lifetime
- 5.3. Dementia costs the UK economy £26.3bn a year – that's enough to pay every household energy bill in the country for a year
- 5.4. Every year, carers, usually spouses or adult children, provide 1.3 billion hours of care for people with dementia, saving the state £11.6 billion
- 5.5. Two thirds of people with dementia live in the community. We currently have over 300 communities signed up to the Dementia Friendly Communities recognition process, with a population reach of 28million
- 5.6. There are 2 million Dementia Friends in the UK and we are committed to reaching 4m by 2020
- 5.7. Last year Alzheimer's Society worked with Ipsos Mori to conduct an unprecedented look at the real picture of living with dementia today. Many of these findings have influenced our Fix Dementia Care campaign (below)
- 5.8. Less than half of the public have begun saving for the care and support they might need in the future.
- 5.9. 27% of carers for people with dementia say they feel cut off from society.
- 5.10. 61% of carers say their health has been negatively affected by caring for someone with dementia
- 5.11. More than half (56%) of the public who do not have dementia believe that their life would be over if they had dementia.
- 5.12. 48% of people living with dementia worry about becoming a burden.
- 5.13. 87% of people with dementia who were interviewed receive help from family in their day-to-day life but only 14% receive help from a paid carer.

## 6. Fix Dementia Care: Funding

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- 6.1. Over the past 3 years, Alzheimer's Society has produced a number of reports on the state of dementia care in the UK. These reports, on hospitals, on home care and on

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- care homes, have identified areas of failure in the dementia care system. However, at their heart, to solve many of these problems will require an increase in funding from central Government.
- 6.2. As you may well be aware, this is a pivotal moment for Social Care and its impact on Local Authority funding. Following an increased public profile for social care at last year's General Election the Government is due to release a Green Paper over the summer.
  - 6.3. This is a once in a generation opportunity to affect the future of social care in Britain, and Alzheimer's Society will be campaigning to ensure it truly reflects the needs of people with dementia.
  - 6.4. The underfunding of the social care system, which has seen around 40% taken from the budgets of local authorities tasked with providing state care since 2010, has negatively impacted the quality and volume of care that people with dementia receive
  - 6.5. Too often we hear the consequences of inadequate care – our Fix Dementia Care investigation last year revealed people with dementia left in soiled sheets or being left for days without food.
  - 6.6. In modern Britain, it cannot be right that people with dementia are receiving such underfunded care. It cannot be right that, according to our research, it would take 125 years for a person with dementia to save for their care. It must not be allowed to continue.

## 7. Contacts

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