



Department
of Health

NHS
England

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To: cllr.h.hart@barnet.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Hart,

As you will be aware in February 2014, the Secretary of State for Health published a package of measures designed to improve the lives of people with dementia by ensuring better access to a timely diagnosis and then access to the advice, care and support that they need. This letter is to ask for the engagement of all Health & Wellbeing Boards in the drive to improve services for people with dementia.

This supports the specific ambition that nationally, two thirds of the estimated number of people with dementia will have a diagnosis and access to post diagnosis support by March 2015. Recent data from the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) for 2013-14 shows that only 55% of the estimated number of people with dementia (nationally) had a formal diagnosis.

There is a tremendous amount of work being undertaken by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Local Authorities and within the Third Sector across the country to improve the care of people with dementia. Whilst diagnosis of dementia is a matter for the NHS, access to post diagnostic support (not just for the person with dementia but also for their families and carers), is a matter for all members of local Health & Wellbeing Boards. Indeed many areas have recognised this in their Better Care Fund service plans.

To support your work at local level we are highlighting the current dementia

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diagnosis rates for the CCGs within your area which is 57.8% as recorded by NHS Barnet.

This information has already been sent to CCGs, who are now receiving monthly updates on progress. Information on dementia diagnosis will also be available on the MyNHS website.

We would encourage you to support CCGs and GP practices in your area – for example by engaging with them so that they can be confident they know all the services available to support people following a diagnosis. This is an important part of the complex diagnosis journey in ensuring people are being supported by health, care services and the community to live as well as possible with the condition.

A time-limited Intensive Support Team has been established within NHS England to provide support to CCGs primarily but with some limited resource to link with Health & Wellbeing Boards. At this stage we are asking Health & Wellbeing Boards to tell us about the dementia work they are undertaking. We are particularly interested in hearing about any challenges or barriers in your area and any good practice on improving care that you would be willing to share with others. I would therefore be grateful if you respond to Deborah Cohen at Deborah.Cohen@cpft.nhs.uk by 12th January 2015.

I would like to thank you in anticipation of your support.

Yours sincerely



Dr Martin McShane
**Director (Domain 2) Improving
the quality of life for people
with Long Term Conditions**



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