



South Tyneside Dementia Strategy - September 2011

Dementia is a long term condition. Some people live with their dementia for 10–12 years after receiving a diagnosis, while the average is about three and a half years. Most people with dementia live at home, in communities and neighbourhoods, using mainstream services. However, the fluctuating needs of this patient group can present challenges for health and social care in ensuring that they receive the right care in the right place at the right time.

In South Tyneside this means that while we want to ensure that specialist services and support are available for people with dementia and their carer's, our action plan will also focus on raising awareness around supporting people with dementia who are in the early stages of the illness, in their neighbourhoods and communities.



South Tyneside Council in collaboration with its NHS and voluntary sector partners is addressing the challenge of improving

services in line with the National Dementia Strategy, and the increase in demand due to an aging population demographic. A **Local Action Plan** was published on 26 August 2011 <www.southtyneside.info/article/8305/Adult-social-care> providing a high level summary of what has been achieved to date, and the work that will be carried out over the next two and a half years.

NHS South of Tyne has commissioned a **Memory Protection Service** that will provide a comprehensive assessment of people who have a possible diagnosis of dementia. This service will help identify the undiagnosed early stage dementia patients, and ensure they receive the information and support to live as independently as possible for as long as possible.

A joint action plan will identify improvements to service provision within care homes, which will be monitored through the development of an outcomes framework.

Mainstream services in South Tyneside will ensure they are “**dementia-friendly**” to enable people with dementia to receive the same standard of support that other residents enjoy.

A small but dedicated project team within South Tyneside will be supporting the Older People's Mental Health Strategy Group's oversight of this work programme. The team will be working to map of the dementia pathway in South Tyneside from both a service and patient perspective.

If you have any questions about what this work means for you and the services you provide, please contact the team at dementia.localactionplan@southtyneside.gov.uk