

Re: Formal diagnosis/ identification of residents with dementia

Dear Colleague/Care Home Manager,

We are writing to ask for your support in ensuring that all care home residents living with dementia receive a formal diagnosis.

The Alzheimer's Society estimates that 70% of people in care homes have dementia or severe memory problems. However, many do not receive a formal diagnosis. This can have negative consequences for both the person themselves and their families. It can also hinder efforts to commission the right support for people by not reflecting the true numbers of people living with dementia in our care homes.

To help us provide better support we would like to you to consider taking the following action within your service:

If you are concerned about the memory/cognition of any of your clients, please ensure that their GP is aware of your concerns. Please use the enclosed case finding tool to support the identification of clients with undiagnosed dementia, requesting that anyone with suspected dementia be referred to their GP for review. Please do let us know if you identified anyone with this tool so that we can evaluate whether this is a useful intervention.

If you have any questions about this or would like to update us on your use of the case finding tool, please contact IHCCT.Admin@Hertfordshire.gov.uk

Thank you for your support.

Integrated Health and Care Commissioning Team.