

To: Chairs of Health and Wellbeing Boards

Dear Colleagues

As you may know, the Prime Minister launched a 'Challenge on Dementia' in March 2012 to deliver major improvements in dementia care and research by 2015.

The National Dementia Strategy Programme Board, chaired by the Minister for Care Services Norman Lamb MP, has been tasked with going further and faster to deliver for people with dementia and their family carers. Three sub-groups have been formed to lead on: creating dementia-friendly communities, better research, and driving improvements in health and care.

We are the co-chairs of the Health and Care Sub-Group and we, with the support of the Local Government Association, are writing to ask for your commitment to the Dementia Challenge and your assistance in taking this important agenda forward.

A number of key commitments were made by the Prime Minister as part of the March 2012 launch. I'd therefore like to ask that your local health and wellbeing board considers:

- Reviewing your local Dementia Strategy with particular emphasis on enablement and intermediate care access for people with dementia, accommodation solutions, end of life support and health and social care workforce development
- Ensuring the needs of people with dementia and their carers are part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment process
- Whether you need to make dementia a priority in your Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies.
- Signing up to the National Dementia Declaration and joining your Local Dementia Action Alliance to work with local partners to drive forward improvements for people with dementia in your area (link below).

We are also asking health and wellbeing boards nationally to sign up to the *Dementia Care and Support Compact* – found in Annex B of the challenge document. Please consider publicising this on your websites, stating how you will fulfil this commitment and asking your local Health Trusts to do the same.

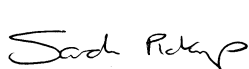
We would also encourage you to ask your Acute Hospital Trusts to sign up to the call to action – the Right Care: creating dementia friendly hospitals (link below). This will allow hospitals in your area to gain access to support and advice on becoming more dementia friendly including supporting people with dementia to be discharged back home.

The Prime Minister has asked the National Dementia Strategy Board to provide a formal update on progress by March 2013. We would encourage

you to share your progress through the Dementia Challenge 'Get Involved' website. Some useful online resources are listed below.

For more information or to send in best practice, please use the Dementia Challenge email address: dementiachallenge@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



Sarah Pickup,
President, Association
of Directors of Social
Services



Sir Ian Carruthers OBE, Chief
Executive,
NHS South of England



and Councillor David
Rogers OBE
Chair, LGA Community
Wellbeing Board

Online resources:

Number 10 Press Launch

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/a-day-to-remember-dementia-campaign-launches/>

Dementia Challenge Documents

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/03/pm-dementia-challenge/>

Dementia Challenge – Get Involved

www.dementiachallenge.dh.gov.uk

Local Government Association – Adult Social Care resources

<http://www.local.gov.uk/adult-social-care>

National Dementia Declaration and Dementia Action Alliance

http://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/info/5/join_the_alliance

Right Care: creating dementia friendly hospitals

http://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/info/2/action_plans/165/the_right_care_creating_dementia_friendly_hospitals