

Background to the initiative

In April 2017 we were delighted to announce the 3 GP clusters (details below) chosen to be innovation sites to test the delivery of dementia post-diagnostic support (PDS) from GP practices. This 2 year programme, commissioned by the Scottish Government’s Dementia Innovations Unit following consultation with the Primary Care Engagement and Innovation team, invited Integration Joint Boards to support clusters to apply. We received 10 applications and a selection panel chose the sites. The initiative is being led by the Focus on Dementia team, ihub at Healthcare Improvement Scotland in partnership with NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and Alzheimer Scotland.

Progress to date

Focus on Dementia are supporting the sites to use quality improvement tools to ensure there is a clear structure for capturing the learning and value of delivering PDS from Primary Care. NES are supporting the sites’ Educational needs. Each site is taking a different approach to delivering PDS in their setting. See below for some aspects of what they are planning. For further information please contact:

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East Edinburgh

Eight GP practices from Leith walk to The Inch. Population in the East Edinburgh cluster is 57,724 people, of these currently 740 people have a diagnosis of dementia.

East Edinburgh plan to employ a Dementia Practice Facilitator to support people who are worried about their memory and post-diagnosis and plan to run PDS group work sessions for people and their carers. They are also keen to make their GP practices dementia-friendly.

Nithsdale (Dumfries and Galloway)

Nine GP practices working across 14 surgeries. Population is 59,217 people, of these 593 people currently have a diagnosis of dementia.

Nithsdale are focusing on changing their system to make sure GPs have direct access to PDS services for their patients and are exploring GPs diagnosing dementia rather than referring all cases onto Community Mental Health. They are initially focusing on one practice, Gillbrae, before rolling out to other practices.

Shetland

This cluster covers all ten GP practices in Shetland. Population is 23,000, of these currently 170 people have a diagnosis of dementia.

Shetland are seconding an Occupational Therapist into Lerwick Health Centre to raise awareness of PDS with the staff there and to improve the access, uptake and quality of PDS across Shetland.