

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 Focus on Dementia, 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 carefully capture 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 and all are keen to make GP practices dementia-friendly. See below for some aspects of what is happening. For further info 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 have employed a Dementia Service Facilitator, who starts beginning March, to support people who are worried about their memory and provide support post-diagnosis. Currently testing PDS groupwork sessions for people and their carers from the GP surgeries.

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 changing their system to make sure GPs have direct access to PDS services for their patients and are supporting GPs to diagnose dementia rather than referring all cases onto Community Mental Health. They are focusing on Gillbrae Practice initially before rolling out to other practices. An OT assistant is now based in Gillbrae to support PDS delivery.

Shetland

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

Shetland have seconded an Occupational Therapist into Scalloway Health Centre to: coordinate delivery of PDS from primary care; raise awareness of PDS with staff and public; improve access, uptake and quality of PDS generally & incorporate home-based memory rehab as part of the PDS offer.