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### Diagnosis rates

Dementia diagnosis rates are now a national priority for NHSE as we get nearer to the 2015 aspiration that two-thirds (66%) of those with dementia in our populations have a formal diagnosis. To that end, your very own Dr Nick Cartmell has been appointed to support the 50 CCGs in the South of England as a member of NHSE's Intensive Support Team for Dementia.

#### Headlines:

- NHSE South recorded an average diagnosis rate of 49.9% for August 2014. CCGs have received their rates for the same month from HSCIC, some GP surgery data may be missing if they are required to manually upload QOF data so the rates may be slightly lower than actual.
- HSCIC will now be releasing monthly rates until QOF year end, so CCGs and H&WBBs can see the impact of specific projects.
- Alzheimer's Society have published Dementia UK Second Edition which includes updated Delphi age/sex band estimated prevalence figures. These mainly differ for the under 65, 80-89 and over 95 year old age groups and some CCGs are reporting a beneficial effect on diagnosis rates, although it is not yet clear when the new bands will officially be adopted.

- CCGs in the SW will be reporting progress on their SCN funded projects in early November.
- Two projects are most likely to have an impact in the next 7 months:
  - Data checking GP QOF registers,
  - Care home case finding

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### Legal Aspects

Samantha Buckthought, Partner at Wolferstans and regional expert on the Mental Capacity Act 2005, gave a very useful talk on the requirements of the Act including Lasting Power of Attorney and Deprivation of Liberty Standards at our last meeting.

This is very timely, following the recent House of Lords review of the MCA and recent legal rulings in West Cheshire and Cambridgeshire, and is relevant to both health & social care staff.

Nick has since developed a quick reference guide for healthcare workers that has been welcomed by his CCG and provides a logical link with the SCN's End of Life Network. The Network is working to improve advance care planning quality (in partnership with Health Education England) as well as provide guidance on

how to deliver quality End of Life care without the Liverpool Care Pathway

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## SCN Working Groups

It has been agreed that four new Working Groups will be set up by the SCN:

- Huntingdon's Disease
- Early onset dementias
- Prevention
- Mental Health inpatient unit bed stay variations

We are now inviting people with a passion and/or expertise in each area to contact Justine or Nick with a view to first meetings before the New Year.

Each group will be supported to develop aims and agree outputs which should support commissioning decisions in the SW by both CCGs and LAs to the benefit of our populations.

The Prevention Group, for example, proposes to map current strategies and develop standards against which each area can be benchmarked against which are based on available evidence.

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## User Involvement

The Dementia Implementation Group welcomed a special new member at our last meeting. Hilary Doxford has recently been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. Her input at the meeting was extremely helpful and complemented that of Derek Dominey who cared for his wife, who recently sadly died with dementia, and

continues to be a leading expert in the region.

Hearing the views of service users remains a high priority for NHS and Local Authority commissioners but continues to be a challenge due to the nature of the disease course. Debbie Donnison, our very active and able regional Alzheimer's Society manager, has offered to provide a training and awareness event for commissioners and providers to assist with this which the SCN will host before the end of the financial year: more details when available.

In the meantime Service User Review Panels remain a most effective way of gathering service user opinion on commissioning strategy and feeding back to the population what plans are in place.

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## A new dementia strategy?

Although both the National Dementia Strategy and the Prime Minister's Challenge will be retired next year due to the General Election, it is currently felt in the SW that a new regional dementia strategy - which builds on achievements in the region over the past 5 years and focuses on evidence-based commissioning – would not be helpful at this stage. This decision will be revisited next year once the political stage is set and the future of the SCN is clearer.

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## SCN/regional sign-up to DAA

Recently there has been a proposal that the SW SCN signs up to the national Dementia Action Alliance. Whilst this has good support the consensus at our recent meeting was that instead the SCN should encourage sign-up by each CCG in the region, because CCGs have statutory responsibility for commissioning whilst the SCN does not.

CCG sign-up will be reviewed at our next meeting.

[http://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/join\\_the\\_alliance](http://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/join_the_alliance)

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## Carers Call to Action

Louise Langham and Sallie Rutledge gave a very powerful presentation about what it means to be a carer at our last meeting. SCN DIG members were asked to sign up to the Carer's Call to Action on the DAA website and post there examples of good practice in carer support from the region:

<http://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/carers>

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## Next DIG meeting

This will be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Further details including agenda and supporting papers will be sent to DIG members nearer the time.

Proposed topics for discussion:

- How useful is a diagnosis, really?
- General Practice-based dementia nurses: experience from Cornwall.

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## Further Information

For up to date information about all things related to dementia please go to

[www.dementiapartnerships.com](http://www.dementiapartnerships.com)

To publicise any examples of positive practice in the South West, or to offer feedback on any technical or accuracy aspects of the content of this website please send an email to

[rowan@dementiapartnerships.com](mailto:rowan@dementiapartnerships.com)

For information about the South West SCN please go to

[www.swscn.org.uk](http://www.swscn.org.uk)

To discuss any aspects of the work of the SCN and Dementia Implementation Group, please contact the chair, Dr Nick Cartmell at [nickcartmell@nhs.net](mailto:nickcartmell@nhs.net); or contact Justine Faulkner, Network Manager, at [justine.faulkner@nhs.net](mailto:justine.faulkner@nhs.net)

Abbreviations:

SCN	Strategic Clinical Network
DIG	Dementia Implementation Group
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
LA	Local Authority
NHSE	NHS England
DAA	Dementia Action Alliance
HSCIC	Health & Social Care Information Centre
QOF	Primary Care Quality & Outcomes Framework