

“Give me something to believe in”

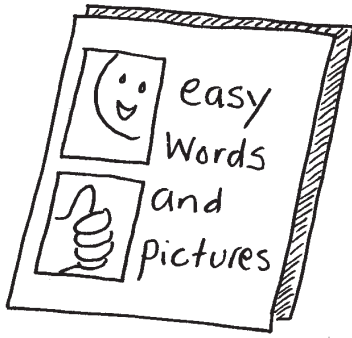
– the Dementia Strategy for Birmingham and Solihull 2013-2016

Consultation Dates:

**6 January 2014
to
7 April 2014**



This leaflet is easy to read



This is a short version of 'Give me something to believe in' the Dementia Strategy for Birmingham and Solihull, which is a local plan for improving care and support services in Birmingham and Solihull for people with Dementia.

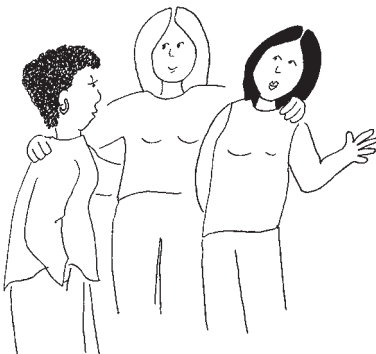


The strategy is a 3 year plan for 2013-2016. This is part of the consultation on that plan.



The plan tells you about

- what services should be in place for people with dementia in Birmingham and Solihull and their carers; and
- what services there are now



We based the strategy on what people told us they wanted



We also based it on what government guidance told us should be provided

We want people who have dementia to have better services and a better quality of life and to be able to say:



They were diagnosed with dementia early and supported following their diagnosis



The people who treated them made them feel as if they understood and treated them with respect and dignity



They got the information they needed when they needed it and in a way they could understand, that helped them to make the best choices they could



They were able to continue to enjoy life and had opportunities to try new things



Their carers felt supported

We are now asking people to tell us whether they think the plan is right about what people want and the things that need to be done

The strategy is organised in five main parts

Health Promotion and Prevention

We know that keeping healthy can delay some of the symptoms of dementia. If people know more about dementia they will be able to look after themselves better



So we want to increase people's awareness of how to live healthily. We can do this through publicity and education

We want to create '**dementia-friendly communities**' where people with dementia are supported by their community

Recognition and Identification

We know how important it is that the symptoms of dementia are recognised early



So we want to help individuals and professionals to recognise the symptoms of dementia as early as possible



We also want to make sure they know what to do if they think a person has dementia

Assessment and Diagnosis

Once the symptoms of dementia are recognised then the person will need a full assessment. If the assessment shows that they have dementia they should be told what services there are



These services should help them to understand their diagnosis and to plan for the future

We need to make sure there are services that do this and that they are flexible enough to respond when people's needs change

Living Well with Dementia

We know that it is important that people with dementia get support that helps them to live as normal a life as possible

We want to make sure they have access to the same services as other people, including drug and non-drug treatments.

We want them to only have to **'tell their story once'** instead of having to answer the same questions over and over again

We think it is important that community organisations know about dementia so that they can support their members better

We want carers of people with dementia to feel supported and helped to meet people who share their experiences.



Increasing Care

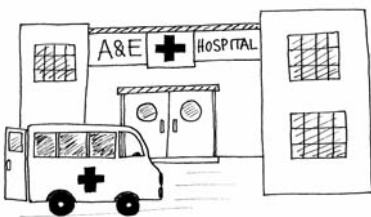
We know that most people with dementia want to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. They need services that help them to.



We want to make sure that staff who work with people with dementia have good training and skills



That hospitals and care homes are able to recognise and manage people with dementia and other problems



That people with dementia have the same access to services as other people. These will help them return home after a stay in hospital



And that families and carers are able to get support and training in looking after people with dementia

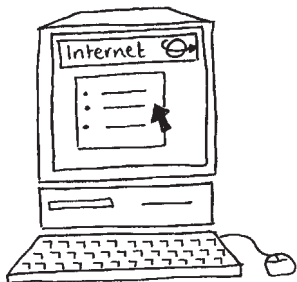
What next?

We would like your comments and views on our dementia strategy. To tell us what you think, please print this questionnaire off and send it to us in one of the following ways:

Email to: lara.hughes@nhs.net



Write to:
Dementia Strategy Consultation
Freepost RSYS-HKBC-XBLA
Birmingham
B2 2DR



Or through our website:
www.birminghambeheard.org.uk

Thank you for your help on this!

If you are interested in being part of a Dementia Partnership Forum please email mary.latter@nhs.net or put the details of how you can be contacted on the bottom of the questionnaire.

The Dementia Partnership Forum will:

- include people with dementia, their family/carers, as well as service providers and other professionals;
- talk about good practice and local services; and
- review the dementia strategy each year and report on progress to commissioners and providers