

**Wiltshire County  
Council's Health  
Select Committee**

**Alzheimer's Society**



# Alzheimer's Society

- Alzheimer's Society is the UK's largest dementia charity
- We support people with dementia through:
  - Local service delivery
  - Research
  - Influencing and campaigning (nationally and locally)

# What is dementia?

- 'Dementia' describes a set of symptoms that may include memory loss and difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or language.
- Caused when the brain is damaged by diseases.
- The symptoms that someone with dementia experiences depends on the parts of the brain that are damaged and the disease that is causing the dementia.

# Who is affected?

- There are **850,000** with dementia across the UK, with this set to rise to **1 million** by 2025. **225,000** will develop dementia this year - one every three minutes.
- There are **700,000** informal carers currently supporting people living with dementia. 36% spend more than **100 hours** per week caring.
- In Wiltshire there are approx. **4,600** people living with a dementia diagnosis and a further **2,400** predicted to be living with the condition undiagnosed.

# Fix Dementia Care – the national context

- Our flagship national campaign launched last year and built from direct experiences of people with dementia
- Findings:
  - People are facing **catastrophic costs** to pay for their care
  - Many are **struggling to access** the vital care they need in the first place
  - Once people affected by dementia do get support, too often their care is of **poor quality**

- **Cost** – the cost of extra care charges for a health condition must be covered by the state through a Dementia Fund
- **Quality** – all health and social care workers must be given the training and support they need to deliver quality dementia care
- **Access** – everyone with dementia should have a care navigator to support access to timely, preventative and integrated support

# Fix Dementia Care - what does this mean locally?

- Local authorities have a crucial role to play in helping to ensure that people living with and affected by dementia get the care and support they need.
- Potential role for scrutiny to improve how people with dementia are supported across Wiltshire and spread best practice learning to other areas.

# Quality

- Training for staff working directly with people living with dementia





# Access

- Delayed transfers of care and inappropriate hospital admissions
- The diagnosis rate
- Post-diagnostic support



# Cost

- Financial support, including passported benefits
- Forward planning, including market shaping



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# ANY QUESTIONS?

