



13 March 2024

Subject:	Raising the Barriers: An Action Plan to Tackle Regional Variation in Dementia Diagnosis in England
Presenting Officer and Organisation	Alison Clowes, Local Systems Influencing Manager, Alzheimer's Society
 Alzheimer's Society <small>Together we are help & hope for everyone living with dementia</small>	
Purpose of Report	Information

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Board note and consider the content of the report and how it applies to Sandwell.

2. Links to Workstreams Set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Healthy Communities	No direct links to workstream.
Primary Care	The report contains recommendations that are relevant to pathway development and has implications for primary care and dementia diagnosis.
Integrated Town Teams	There are implications for multi-disciplinary teams and other partnership working that could impact this workstream.
Intermediate Care	Possible implications for step-up step-down care, rehabilitation, and integrated discharge hubs.
Care Navigation	There are strong implications on care navigation within this report, particularly on single navigation function for

professionals, virtual wards, and complex case management.

3. Context and Key Issues

3.1 Raising the Barriers

An Action Plan to Tackle Regional Variation in Dementia Diagnosis in England

Whether enabling access to medications, support or simply the relief of understanding what is causing the difficulties they are experiencing, 91% of people affected by dementia see clear benefits of getting a diagnosis.

However, there is significant variation in how quickly and accurately people are being diagnosed with dementia based on where they live in the country. There is currently a difference of over twenty percentage points in the dementia diagnosis rates between the highest and lowest performing Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) in England.

Our healthcare system must be inclusive of all who need a diagnosis of dementia, enabling access across every region of England to the advice, care, support and treatment that timely dementia diagnosis can bring. For far too many people, this is not the case.

Fortunately, we have also heard about areas which have managed to inclusively diagnose those living with dementia in rural and deprived communities. This must be used to inform best practice and delivered at scale so that all who need it can receive a timely and accurate dementia diagnosis.

The APPG on Dementia recommends:

1. Each ICS must develop a comprehensive dementia strategy
2. All dementia diagnoses must include an accurate subtype
3. NHS England must continue to review and develop its methods for calculating dementia prevalence and diagnosis rates
4. A national Dementia Observatory should be created to collate and publish existing data collected across system levels
5. Government intelligence about variation in dementia diagnosis rates must be translated into action
6. A broader range of regional and local communication channels must be used to reach those who may be lost to the system
7. Government should ensure the primary care workforce is adequately planned and resourced to enable dementia diagnosis

8. High-quality post-diagnostic support services for dementia must be available more equitably across England

4. Engagement

As part of the engagement for this report, written evidence, oral session evidence and other consultation activity was carried out to shape the recommendations and research the key findings.

5. Implications

Resources:	No implications at this stage.
Legal and Governance:	No implications at this stage.
Risk:	No implications at this stage.
Equality:	No implications at this stage.
Health and Wellbeing:	This report covers some of the workstreams outlined in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy as mentioned above.
Social Value:	No implications at this stage.
Climate Change:	No implications at this stage.
Corporate Parenting:	No implications at this stage.

6. Appendices

Appendix One – Presentation

7. Background Papers

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/about-us/policy-and-influencing/all-party-parliamentary-group-dementia>