



Press Statement

17 May 2017

Between January and March 2017 the seven Community Health Councils (CHCs) in Wales asked people across the country to share their ideas on improving NHS services for people with dementia and their carers. They asked one simple question;

‘What can the NHS do better to improve the lives of people living with dementia?’

They heard from over 500 people whose lives had been touched by dementia in all its forms. People shared a wide range of ideas for improving services. Some could be taken forward by the NHS alone, while others would need to see agencies working better and more closely together.

The CHCs used the ideas gathered to inform their response to the recent Welsh Government consultation on a dementia strategy for Wales. Today, to coincide with Dementia Awareness Week they have published a report setting out in more detail what people told us.

Mutale Merrill OBE, Chair of the Board of CHCs said;

“These ideas and suggestions come directly from the true experts, from people who live with dementia every day and who know what’s needed and what works well.

We hope that all bodies involved in the development and delivery of services for people living with dementia will use this report to consider where and how they might improve.”

The report includes ideas and suggestions from the public to make assessment easier and more accessible; calls for better access to information following diagnosis; suggests a one stop shop for advice and guidance, and identifies a need for 24 hour crisis support.

It highlights too, the need to get the basics right; dignity, better communication between agencies and with families, greater support and recognition for the role played by carers, and simple changes to the environment across NHS services.

A copy of the report can be viewed by following the links below

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/899/Dementia%20Care%20%28One%20Simple%20Thing%29%20BCHCW%20final%20.pdf>

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/899/home>

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Note to editors: The Board of CHCs represents the collective voice of the seven CHCs in Wales, provides advice, support and National Standards to underpin the work of the CHCs and monitors their performance. The CHCs are independent statutory bodies that exist to represent the interests of patients and the public in the planning and delivery of NHS services.

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