

*“Patients with dementia face problems when they encounter urgent and emergency care systems and the staff face real challenges in effectively managing patients with dementia. With a coherent approach we can improve the experience for patients, carers and staff.”*

**Dr Geoff Bryant**  
Emergency Care Consultant and Hospital Fellowship Lead

## Empowering professionals in nursing homes

Consultation with health and social care providers has indicated a need to strengthen leadership in dementia within nursing homes to improve care pathways and the quality of patient care. HEKSS is working with regional providers to develop and evaluate innovative leadership training for healthcare professionals within this sector.

## Empowering families and carers

Consultation with families and carers has reinforced the need for training to support early diagnosis and highlighted the potential for training to enable staff to empower families and carers to support safe, dignified and compassionate care.

HEKSS is commissioning an innovative, regional training programme for memory assessment service staff with the aim of empowering families and carers to develop skills and enhance their resilience to better care for a person with dementia.

## Foundation level dementia awareness training

Around 90% of trusts, CCGs and provider organisations in the region are now taking part in the foundation level dementia awareness programme. The Health Education England mandate indicates that 80% of patient-facing staff should receive the training within three years. Through the delivery of localised training, Kent, Surrey and Sussex are well on the way to achieving a cumulative target of 29,000 staff achieving the learning outcomes.



**Developing skills  
and knowledge,  
improving  
dementia care**

**For more information  
and resources**

Find out more, get involved and access links to free dementia awareness training:  
[www.kss.hee.nhs.uk/dementia](http://www.kss.hee.nhs.uk/dementia)



**Health Education Kent, Surrey and Sussex**  
Crawley Hospital | 3rd Floor | Red Wing  
West Green Drive | Crawley | West Sussex RH11 7DH

T: 0207 415 3400  
W: [www.kss.hee.nhs.uk](http://www.kss.hee.nhs.uk)



# The dementia challenge

## Dementia is one of the greatest challenges we face:

- 800,000 people live with dementia in the UK. This is expected to rise to 1 million by 2021.
- Kent, Surrey and Sussex have the greatest proportion of older people in the country.
- 50,000 people are currently diagnosed with dementia in the region. This figure is expected to rise to 75,000 by 2030.
- Nationally, the cost of treatment and care for dementia is estimated to be £23bn, and there are thought to be around 670,000 unpaid family carers.

There is currently no cure for dementia and the diagnosis rate in the region is one of the lowest in England. We therefore have an opportunity to educate and train all levels of our workforce to improve diagnosis rates, treatment and care.

## HEKSS Skills Development Strategy in Dementia

Dementia is one of the priority programmes in the five-year HEKSS Skills Development Strategy (SDS). The SDS was developed with healthcare providers and other partners across the region and sets out the workforce and education interventions required to develop the workforce to meet future needs and national and local priorities.

The dementia programme aims to complement other HEKSS funding streams and the Health Education England mandate by developing and delivering the skills needed by all those providing NHS treatment to work in a way that enables people and their carers to live well with dementia.

## Time for Dementia: empowering practitioners in training

Medical, nursing and paramedic students at Brighton and Sussex Medical School and the University of Surrey will, as part of their curriculum, visit a person with dementia and their family at least four times a year for the majority of their course. Learning will be consolidated through individual reflection and group work.

The three-year initiative is supported by the Alzheimer's Society and will provide a unique longitudinal experience for students of what it is like to live with dementia. An evaluation study will assess a range of outcomes and experience for students, individuals with dementia and their families.

*"We believe Time for Dementia could support a profound change in professional attitudes to dementia, transforming care for patients and their families."*

Sube Banerjee,  
Professor of Dementia and Associate Dean

## Enhancing dementia education

Our vision for enhancing training and education in dementia care is based upon:

- Living well with dementia, the Department of Health's 2009 national dementia strategy
- The Prime Minister's dementia challenge, 2012
- Health Education England's mandate, 2014

## Dementia fellowship: empowering professionals in practice

The dementia fellowship develops both clinical and leadership skills to drive forward best practice, service improvements and quality of care for patients. Over 80 healthcare professionals including GPs, practice nurses, emergency care doctors and nurses, pharmacists and allied health professionals are already taking part in the modular programme.

They are joining a network of dementia fellows taking specialist skills in dementia back to their local areas to enable positive change such as:

- Supporting early diagnosis and improving working practices in primary and community care
- Enhancing patient and carer experiences in acute and emergency hospital settings
- New approaches to better manage pain, nutrition and medications
- New support and care for people experiencing memory problems

*"We wanted to develop the ability for all disciplines to call on each other's expertise... bringing together their knowledge around how to improve treatment for patients locally."*

Breda Flaherty,  
Programme Leader

