

Understanding Dementia Awareness in the Housing Sector

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Background

- 🏠 Dementia affects memory, thinking, and daily living - impacting how people interact with their homes
- 🏠 Approximately 66% of people living with dementia reside in the community and most wish to remain in their residence for as long as possible [1]
- 🏠 To age in place, environments must be physically and socially supportive [2,3]
- 🏠 Members of the housing sector play an integral role in supporting people living with dementia to age in place at various points:
 - Supporting homeowners or tenants in existing homes
 - Downsizing or adapting homes to support changing needs
 - Supporting the transition to suitable supported living environments [3]

By 2050, figures are expected to rise from 55 million to 139 million people living with dementia globally [4]

Background

- 🏠 Given the important role the housing sector plays in supporting the transition period and quality of life of people living with dementia, it is important that their awareness of dementia is captured
- 🏠 Despite recommendations for dementia training in the housing sector little research has explored:
 - Current dementia knowledge level of these professionals in the UK
 - Their specific training needs [3,4]
- 🏠 Address this gap and contribute to global dementia action areas highlighted by the WHO [5] and Alzheimer's Disease International [6]
 - Increasing dementia awareness
 - Fostering dementia-friendly communities



Funding

- ▶ Internal Pump-prime funding
 - Support preliminary investigation
 - Building networks
 - Supporting Patient and Public Involvement (PPI)

- ▶ Research Assistant
 - Rebecca Dew



Shaping this work

- ▶ Engaged in ongoing informal discussions
 - People living with dementia and their support persons
 - Dementia and Housing sector
 - Academics: Dementia and Housing Researchers
 - Social services
 - Dementia Training Providers
- ▶ Steering group
- ▶ Participant Advisory Group

Aims

- 🏠 To explore the current level of dementia knowledge and awareness among professionals in the housing sector
- 🏠 To explore housing professionals'* experiences of working with people living with dementia and their caregivers, including specific challenging scenarios and training needs
- 🏠 To explore the experiences of people living with dementia and their families of engaging with housing professionals and identifying their perceived challenges and opportunities for improved support

** Target groups (as previous defined by the Alzheimers Society Dementia Friendly Housing Guide) may include: Housing providers, estate agents, planners, architects, builders, surveyors, landlords, home improvement agencies, property maintenance companies, building control, telecare providers, property developers*

Long-term goal:

A bespoke dementia training for housing professionals

Designed *with* and *for*

Study Design

Phase One: Online Survey with Housing Professionals

Open-ended questions

Dementia Knowledge Assessment Scale (DKAS)

Challenges:

Poor response rate

Difficulty to access housing professional groups / getting 'buy-in'

Phase Two: Qualitative workshops

People living with dementia and their support persons (in-person)

Housing professionals (online)

Access the survey by scanning the QR code or by following this link:

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/bournemouth/dementia-and-housing>



Next Steps...

- 🏠 Currently planning Phase Two
- 🏠 Analyse and disseminate the findings
- 🏠 Identify the next steps...Is there a need for this work?
- 🏠 Reflect on the challenges:
 - What steps can we take to prioritise dementia within this sector (outside of those working in dementia-specific services)?
 - How can we more effectively engage with these groups?



If you are interested in taking part in a workshop, please contact Dr Aisling Flynn aflynn@bournemouth.ac.uk or Rebecca Dew rdew@bournemouth.ac.uk for further information

References

- [1] Evans, S.C, Atkinson, T., Cameron, A., Johnson, E.K., Smith, R., Darton, R., Porteus, J., & Lloyd, L. 2020. Can extra care housing support the changing needs of older people living with dementia? *Dementia*.19(5), 1492-1508.
- [2] Lam, H.R., Fleming, K., Lee, J., Li, T.C.F., & Mendonca, N. 2021. Challenges Experienced by Subsidized Housing Residents with Dementia or Cognitive Impairment: A Scoping Review. *Journal of Aging and Environment*. 36(4), 381-409.
- [3] Alzheimer Society, 2012. *Home truths: Housing services and support for people with dementia*. London: Alzheimer's Society.
- [4] World Health Organization, 2022. A blueprint for dementia research. World Health Organization.
- [5] World Health Organisation. 2017. Global action plan on the public health response to dementia 2017-2025. Geneva, WHO.
- [6] Alzheimer's Disease International, 2024. *World Alzheimer Report 2024: Global Changes in Attitudes to Dementia*. London: Alzheimer's Disease International.