



## **DEMENTIA AND HOUSING WORKING GROUP**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Definition**

The Dementia and Housing Working Group (D&HWG), originally set up by the National Housing Federation in 2008, aims to promote the contribution of the housing sector to improving the health and wellbeing and quality of life for people living with dementia.

Approximately 850,000 people in the UK have dementia and the number is set to rise significantly in the coming years. Meeting the challenge of enabling them to live as well as possible is a priority nationally, and organisations across all sectors need to play their part, working collaboratively to improve the health and wellbeing of people living with dementia, and supporting their families and carers. The Dementia and Housing Working Group brings together a wide range of stakeholders to focus specifically on housing and dementia with a view to promoting the role of the housing sector in enabling people with dementia to live independently in a suitable home environment in accordance with their needs and aspirations. The D&HWG comprises housing providers, professionals and trade bodies working alongside the Alzheimer's Society, academic researchers, representatives of government departments and the health sector, including Department of Communities and Local Government, Homes and Communities Agency, Department of Health, NHS England and Public Health England. The D&HWG works across UK, with particular focus on England.

The housing sector includes:

1. Organisations which design, develop, adapt, repair or manage housing
2. A large workforce with varied roles from home adaptations and essential repairs, to housing management, information, advice and support
3. A range of services apart from housing provision delivered by housing organisations, sometimes in partnership with others, such as dementia cafés, home from hospital schemes, telecare services, support, and other wellbeing services

#### **Aims and objectives**

We aim to:

1. Forge links and partnerships across health, social care and housing and encourage positive relationships, to develop a coordinated approach to supporting people with dementia
2. Increase awareness and understanding of dementia across housing sector.

3. Encourage and assist the housing sector to become as dementia-friendly as possible in the way they operate, and to contribute to making the communities within which they work dementia-friendly
4. Improve awareness and understanding amongst statutory and voluntary sector health and social care professionals of the relevance and importance of housing and related services in enabling people with dementia, their families and communities to live well
5. Encourage integrated care and support pathways that include housing options, housing sector staff and housing-related services for people with dementia through all stages from prevention to end-of-life care

## Delivery on objectives

The group will deliver these objectives by:

Networking and information sharing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facilitating networking and information sharing opportunities between the members of the group</li> <li>2. Inviting external contributors and collaborating with other experts, such as Alzheimer's Society Dementia Friendly Communities group and Dementia Action Alliance to achieve our aims</li> </ol>
Supporting existing dementia and housing initiatives and research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Supporting members' own initiatives (e.g. HDRC or Sitra research)</li> <li>4. Using members' networks to invite, gather, share and disseminate good practice examples, research findings etc</li> <li>5. Selectively supporting the work of key non-member organisations with an interest in the topic by providing dementia-specific housing expertise, for example by commenting on documents and materials relevant to housing and dementia</li> </ol>
External communications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Developing a webpage on the Housing LIN website to signpost or showcase achievements, work in progress and good practice examples</li> <li>7. Developing and implementing a communication strategy to effectively and proactively communicate the contribution of housing sector in supporting people with dementia by sharing good practice, evidence and blogs on DHWG webpage.</li> </ol>
Developing new initiatives or research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Commissioning, undertaking or contributing to specific pieces of work if funding is available or can be raised in partnership with health and public health sector representatives.</li> </ol>

## Membership and meetings

The group will meet approximately quarterly and on an ad hoc basis as necessary. Meetings will be used to share information, test out products and initiatives, plan for the future and agree group and individual actions. Between meetings members will communicate via e-mail. Sub-groups may be established to undertake specific tasks.

As there is no dedicated staff resource, the group has to be realistic about what it can commit to. Sitra has agreed to act as Secretariat for the group for one year. Members of the

group make no financial contribution but are expected to actively contribute to the achievement of the group's aims. They should do this by:

- Attending and contributing to meetings, when possible
- Responding to requests for information, comments, good practice examples, etc
- Writing at least one blog a year to share their particular area of expertise and experience on issues relating to housing and dementia
- Promoting the group and its aims by publishing a link to Terms of Reference on their own websites
- Using their contacts and networks to disseminate information
- Collaborating with colleagues on specific pieces of work

The aim of the group is not to accumulate members, but to have representation across relevant bodies and organisations, and for all members to use their own contacts and networks to spread the word.

Organisations who wish to become members of DHWG should contact Paula Reid via email [Paula.Reid@homelesslink.org.uk](mailto:Paula.Reid@homelesslink.org.uk) in the first instance. Their membership will be evaluated on an ad hoc basis by the group. New members will be included if they represent an important perspective currently missing from the group.

## Review

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an annual basis or sooner if a major change makes the current ToR no longer fit for purpose.

Date: 18 June 2016



## **DEMENTIA AND HOUSING WORKING GROUP**

### **Work programme**

There are specific pieces of work which the group will deliver or contribute to. These include:

1. The development of a Dementia Charter for the housing sector
2. Work with the Department of Health as outlined in 5.79 of the Implementation Plan of the Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia 2020 to "raise the profile of housing, highlight and promote good practice, and further the integration of housing in health and social care policy on the issue of dementia"
3. Develop the multi-sector Memorandum of Understanding with dementia-related examples
4. Work with the Dementia Action Alliance to develop a housing-focused programme for one of the quarterly DAA meetings
5. Working with the NHS England to inform hospital discharge planning for people living with dementia
6. Promote housing by signing up to or supporting the joint declaration on post-diagnostic dementia care and support

These will be reviewed and added to as opportunities or issues arise; for example if there are changes to the way in which deprivation of liberty was to be authorised in housing settings.

Date: 18 June 2016