

Pioneering approach to developing services



Dementia UK is a national charity striving to improve the lives of people affected by dementia

The charity is pioneering a specialist nursing approach to provide support for family carers and people with dementia to live well in the community and cope effectively with the difficulties that a diagnosis of dementia can cause.

Admiral Nurses are mental health nurses who specialise in dementia and have skills and knowledge to impart to family carers. The aim is to enable families to understand the impact of dementia, manage everyday life in the best way possible, be supported with decisions as the condition progresses and plan for the future in a positive way.

Dementia is caused by neurological impairment in the brain, characterised by a degenerative process brought about by one, or a combination of conditions, such as Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, Pick's disease and Dementia with Lewy bodies. Dementia is associated with older age, affecting one in 14 people over the age of 65 years, and one in six people over the age of 80 years. Around 750,000 people in the UK currently have a form of dementia and this figure is expected to rise to over one million by the year 2025.

Dementia UK works in partnership with the NHS, local authorities and independent sector health and social care organisations, to provide Admiral Nurses. Whilst the number of Admiral Nurses is increasing, there remain large areas in the country where this vital service is not yet available. The charity plans to expand provision so that family carers in all localities can have access to the specialist skills and knowledge of Admiral Nurses, especially during stressful periods associated with transitions in the dementia journey.

Dementia UK has a team of Dementia Pioneers spearheading the charity's programme of development. Each pioneer has an allocated geographical region; their role is to make connections and build relationships with health and social care providers and commissioners, to identify the potential and make the case for the contribution that Admiral Nurses can make to delivering the National Dementia Strategy and the Carers Strategy at local level.

The Dementia Pioneers can be contacted on 020 7874 7200 or by email development@dementiauk.org

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Dementia UK runs a helpline, Admiral Nursing DIRECT, for family carers, people worried about their memory and professionals. ■

For further information about Admiral Nursing DIRECT call 0845 257 9406 or email direct@dementiauk.org

Dementia UK
Improving quality of life



Emma Hewat
Dementia Pioneer, East of England



Victoria Lyons
Dementia Pioneer, North Home Counties