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BARBARA POINTON PROMOTES ADMIRAL NURSES AS A SOLUTION TO IMPROVING DEMENTIA CARE

Specialist dementia nurses - ADMIRAL NURSES - are central to Barbara Pointon's 'wish list' to meet needs of people with dementia and their carers

Barbara Pointon says:

“The current media interest in dementia, and focus by Government on dementia care, provides us with a wonderful opportunity to provide a better future for all those affected by dementia.

We must get this as right as possible – we won't get this all right in one go – but one thing that will help us get it right is to ensure that specialist dementia nurses, such as Admiral Nurses, become central to our planning.

Each community, each local NHS service, should have a central source of 'expert advice'. Admiral Nurses are well-placed to take up that role. They have a wealth of experience, not only in providing personal and practical support and advice to families, but also, with their charity *for dementia*, in providing training for professional and family carers.

Admiral Nurses and *for dementia* should become an essential part of any future dementia strategy. I will be making this point very clearly to the Government's new Dementia Strategy Group. ”

Barbara Stephens, Chief Executive of *for dementia* says:

“Admiral Nurses work as an integral part of the health and social care system. They are not simply an 'added extra'. Admiral Nurses fulfil a pivotal role for family carers and the people they care for, helping them to navigate their way through often complex NHS and social care processes and to access the full range of services and appropriate family support.

Admiral Nurses are supported by the charity, **for dementia**, and we are working in partnership with the NHS and social care authorities to develop more posts for Admiral Nurses, in as many locations as possible. Our ambition is to spread Admiral Nursing nationwide.

What we need now is central Government recognition of the value of this specialist nursing model of care in order to increase the availability of Admiral Nurses and help fulfil Barbara Pointon's 'wish list'."

Anyone who does not currently have an Admiral Nurse 'on their home patch', can call the Admiral Nursing DIRECT helpline, which is available for people with dementia, family carers and professionals. Admiral nursing DIRECT is provided by experienced Admiral Nurses – call 0845 257 9406 or email your questions and concerns to direct@fordementia.org.uk

ENDS/

Notes for Editors:

1. The mission of **for dementia** is to improve the quality of life of people with dementia by promoting and developing Admiral Nursing, providing high quality training and promoting best practice for professionals working with older people, carers and people with dementia. For more information on **for dementia**, log on to www.fordementia.org.uk.
2. Professional and family carers can call the dedicated Admiral Nursing DIRECT phone line 0845 257 9406 on Tuesday daytime 10 am- 4 pm, and Tuesday and Thursday evenings between 6pm and 9pm. Callers may leave a message at any time and request a call-back, or email their questions to direct@fordementia.org.uk.

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