

# Mental Health: Dementia



Health Innovation and Education Cluster  
South London

## What are we doing?

We are bringing together clinicians, academics, commissioners and other interested parties from our cluster organisations to look at ways of improving care for those diagnosed with dementia by diffusing best practice as widely as possible.

Our objectives, mapped to the National Dementia Strategy, are to increase the number of dementia sufferers receiving a good quality early diagnosis, and to reduce the inappropriate prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs to people with dementia.

## How do we work?

The mental health workstream (of which dementia is the current focus) is led by Professor Robert Howard, Professor of Old Age Psychiatry and Psychopathology at King's College London, Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist at South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and Dean of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. David Norman, the Service Director of Mental Health for Older Adults at South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust is leading on part of the dementia work.

The workstream consists of members of our cluster organisations who meet on a regular basis and communicate by email at other times. New members are always welcome to join and contribute whether by email or in person.

## What have we done so far?

We have two groups (one largely formed of senior clinicians, the other of professionals more concerned with training) that meet on a regular basis to look at progress and plan how to take our work forward. The hope is that these can eventually merge into one.

A workplan has been developed to deal with a series of sub themes within the work, and we have recently been awarded £80k by the Regional Innovation Fund to enable us to establish a dementia training centre.

We want to use innovative education techniques to diffuse best practice and improve staff development to provide workable alternatives to anti-psychotic drugs where their use is not appropriate. We also aim to enable the roll out of a successful memory service model across borough and sector boundaries and generate training facilities designed to help those working in memory services feel more confident about treating dementia.

## What do we need from you?

Our objective is to make sure that innovative ways of educating healthcare professionals spread across South London, across traditional borough and sector boundaries. We want to create sustainability by working collaboratively with the widest possible representation from our cluster organisations.

Contact us on the details below if you want to know more or get involved; we look forward to hearing from you.

### What is the South London Health Innovation and Education Cluster (HIEC)?

The South London Health Innovation and Education Cluster (HIEC) is a groundbreaking partnership between more than 30 healthcare organisations, academic institutions, social care providers, industry and charity partners covering the boroughs of Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham, Greenwich, Bexley, Bromley, Croydon, Sutton, Merton, Wandsworth, Kingston and Richmond.

If you would like more information on any aspect of the work of the HIEC, have any comment to make, or would like to get involved in our workstreams, please contact Alison Berridge (Communications Manager) on [alison.berridge@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:alison.berridge@kcl.ac.uk) or Aaron Hamilton (Relationship Manager) on [aaron.m.hamilton@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:aaron.m.hamilton@kcl.ac.uk)

