



**Bradford Teaching Hospitals**  
NHS Foundation Trust



# Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (BTHFT) Dementia Strategy

**Dementia Strategy Framework 2024-2027**





## Foreword

**by Tommy Whitelaw**

*I'm very honoured to have been asked to write the foreword for Bradford Teaching Hospital's new Dementia Strategy, and wholeheartedly welcome the recommended actions that it sets out. I've also been so very honoured to speak to and meet remarkable staff across the Trust.*

*This is a subject very close to my heart having cared for my Mum Joan.*

*Building personal experience and expertise into the foundation of this strategy should ensure that it remains people focused throughout.*

- ***A diagnosis should not define you.*** *My Mum's name was Joan, not 'the wee woman with dementia.'*
- ***People living with dementia should have the right to continue their day to day and family life.*** *A diagnosis should not alter this right, and we should do all that we can to make this possible. I know myself that living with dementia can be a very lonely experience; however nobody should be left to live in isolation.*
- ***And people living with dementia and their carers should be respected as the experts they are.*** *This principle is at the heart of what we are trying to do with our Dementia Carer Voices project, and is something we should all recognise. Having been a carer myself, the importance of carers as equal partners in care cannot be overemphasised. Excluding family members and carers can have an extremely negative impact on all parties. People will not get all the help and support that they can if their families and carers are not involved. And family members and carers will be left to feel helpless and distressed, knowing more could be done.*

*No matter what your role you have the potential and opportunity to transform the lives and experiences of people living with dementia, their families and carers. This strategy should make a huge difference to the lives of people living with dementia in Bradford.*

*We can all help to make that difference.*



## Introduction

BTHFT Dementia Strategy 2024-2027 takes its lead from; the national priorities outlined in the Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia 2020 (2015), the local picture outlined in the Bradford Dementia Needs Assessment (2015) and Bradford District's Dementia Strategy aligning to the strategic direction and action driven by the NHS Dementia Well Pathway (see Figure 1), supporting the Trust's mission to provide the highest quality care at all times.

# Our Dementia Strategy

BTHFT Dementia Strategy 2024-2027 will be delivered through a comprehensive Dementia Action Plan, with robust governance arrangements to monitor implementation and delivery. The BTHFT Dementia Action Plan is a working document that will ensure the activity in each of five key domains of the NHS Dementia Well Pathway (Figure 1), is aligned with local needs and priorities, taking into account feedback from people living with a dementia, their families and carers. This will enable delivery of local actions aligned with existing metrics and new outcome measures from NHS England as they develop.

## NHS Dementia Well Pathway

Figure 1: The NHS Dementia Well Pathway approach, as applied to BTHFT

At Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust we have

Preventing Well	Diagnosing Well	Living Well	Supporting Well	Dying Well
Raise awareness of the modifiable risks associated with dementia, 'healthy heart healthy mind'	Everybody 65 years and above are screened for delirium, depression and dementia.	People with dementia will be supported to maximise independence and well-being, using a person centred care approach	Providing environments conducive for supporting people with a dementia and their carers.	People living with dementia die with dignity in the place of their choosing.

taken the NHS Dementia Well Pathway and set out what this means for our patients and their families. This is set out in appendix 1.



## **BTHFT supporting statements**

- At BTHFT we understand that each person living with dementia has the right to make choices about their individual care needs and to be recognised as an equal partner in care. Through local engagement within our community of people living with dementia, we will help maximise independence and well-being by adopting a person-centred approach to care, which considers the individual at the centre of their care recognising the unique qualities and abilities of individuals rather than focusing on ill health and any disabilities.
- In continuation with our drive and commitment to improve quality of care for people who use our services, we will dedicate our time engaging within the community of Bradford with people living with dementia, collecting their feedback and experiences on ways we can improve our services and to promote change.

- BTHFT support carers/families/friends that care for people with dementia and advocate their rights to stay with the person they are looking after 24/7. We recognise that the networks of people supporting a person living with dementia are vital and we encourage active participation. Through partnership working we support carers in delivery of care but promote periods of respite. We recognise that some people may not wish or cannot stay with the person with dementia, in these circumstances the provision of high quality care with clear open channels of communication gives the reassurance needed when leaving the person within our care.
- To deliver our Dementia Strategy, we need ALL (clinical and non-clinical) staff to be trained in dementia and person entered care models focusing on the person at the centre of care and the people around them. We will support and empower clinical leaders to lead change within their wards and department areas, motivating their teams to improve the experience and outcomes of people with dementia using their services.
- We recognise within acute hospital settings in some circumstances caring can be challenging. Staff will be provided with advice and information to support caring for those people whose needs have not been identified causing upset and distress. Through compassion and understanding we will offer council by supporting staff to continue providing care to the best of their abilities. Our shared purpose will only be achieved if staff are supported to do well.
- Providing extra support across a variety of settings we have an established team of Dementia champions. This represents a diverse population of staff from both clinical and non-clinical settings; champions are passionate about improving care for people with dementia and will continue to be supported in this important leadership role. Education and training will be a concurrent theme that's runs through all aspects of the strategy and action plan.



- At BTHFT we are committed to providing high quality dementia care, in line with the Trust's clinical strategy, research led care and learning will provide evidence based and safe care. Assurance and governance will be monitored through the Dementia Steering Group. Quality of care will be measured and evaluated using a variety of models to monitor improvements covering NHS England's five domains covered in the Dementia Wellbeing pathway, examples of this would be the National Audit of Dementia, Ward Accreditation audits and education and training surveys. Results will be publicly available and shared across the Trust to help identify any gaps within care, improve learning, support change and promote innovative ideas.
- In conjunction with governing bodies' policies and guidelines concerning the care of people who live with a dementia in a variety of care settings, we will share knowledge and integrate with our partnering services and organisations to support and facilitate change.
- The Trust recognises that some people with forms of cognitive impairment may need help in advocating their needs. In recognition, the Trust adopted a supportive identification system, currently a symbol of the 'forget me not flower' to signpost/express needs to health professionals and other visiting BTHFT members of staff. The tools include a forget me not bed magnet and blue wristbands that were developed in partnership with our service users with dementia To ensure sustainability, the process of identifying, flagging alerts will be reviewed at a timely interval to confirm correlation with any new and future systems and processes.
- We understand that in some circumstances death may happen unexpectedly, and we recognise that some people with dementia may not have had the opportunity to talk about their plans and wishes for their end of life care. All staff are encouraged and able to initiate discussions regarding choices of care and advocate any existing preferred plans. For more

specialist support, staff can refer to our Palliative Care Team to discuss in more detail information on advance statements, decisions to refuse treatments, lasting power of attorney, resuscitation and preferred places of care.

- BTHFT recognise the importance of providing high quality environments for people with dementia. Using recognised tools and techniques, this helps to maximise independence, reduce stress and anxiety, promote relaxation and increase wellbeing. All our projects are patient-centred and are designed using the Trust Interior Design Guide, which has been developed to capture all elements of environmental features such as colour and way finding. Where possible, patients and carers are consulted to ensure our projects meet their requirements.



## Appendix 1 – The Well Pathway for dementia

### The Well Pathway For Dementia At Bradford Royal Infirmary

Preventing Well	Diagnosing Well	Supporting Well	Living Well	Dying Well
Risk of people developing dementia is minimised	Timely, accurate diagnosis, care plan, review with first year	Access to safe high quality health & social care	Live normally in safe and accepting communities	Die with dignity in the place of their choosing
<b>Standards</b>				
Information Hub	Screening over 65's	Virtual ward	Dementia friendly environments	Advance care planning
Accessibility standard	Older adult liaison team	John's campaign Forget me not tool		Gold standards framework
Sign posting information	Lead nurse development	Steering group Volunteers		Gold line (telephone support at home)
Raising awareness	Triple screen			Last days of life guidance (SPICE)
<b>Education and training</b>				
3 tier training programme available to all staff				
<b>Research</b>				
Support research in practice				
<b>Dementia champions</b>				
Support group of colleagues to actively participate, in raising awareness and improving care standards for patients with a dementia/delirium				
<b>Partnership working/Technology</b>				
Working closely with partners in care across the health sector. Using supportive technology to promote and maximise independence, increase engagement and reduce length of stay				
<b>Carers</b>				
Involving and supporting carers in decisions of care and treatment John's campaign				

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