



**South West London and  
St George's Mental Health**  
NHS Trust

# **Dementia Clinical Nurse Specialist Service (DCNS)**

Helping people to live well with Dementia

Referrer information

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## Who are we?

We are a team of four nurses working in Primary Care in partnership with Wandsworth GPs.

We have specialist knowledge and expertise in Dementia and associated issues, as well as knowledge of local health, voluntary and social service provision.

We have strong links and work closely with the secondary care Older People's Mental Health teams.

## Our purpose is to:

- Increase knowledge and expertise of living well with dementia across health and social care.
- Reduce the risks of crises developing and inappropriate hospital admissions for people with Dementia, by supporting families and carers to understand and manage dementia symptoms more effectively.
- Enable people with dementia and their carers, to access services that help maintain their physical and mental health and wellbeing



## Who is the service for?

The service is for people diagnosed with dementia, and/or their carers who have been identified by primary care as needing additional support and signposting to other support agencies or networks.

These individuals may be at higher risk of deterioration in their physical health and at risk of hospital admission.

They may be experiencing the start of **Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD)** and need specialist input/carer support.

They may not be accessing primary care on a regular basis and need to be reviewed/monitored.

There may be concern around carer breakdown or stress.

The patient may require support in accessing appropriate care packages.

Those referred to the team should not be open to or eligible for secondary care mental health services. i.e. Community Mental Health Pathways (**MAS, CBACSS/CMHT**)

## What do we do ?

We provide a consistent point of contact for people diagnosed with Dementia, their families and GPs and will provide a specialist role in care, treatment and support.

We have a supportive, educative and consultative role across the health and social care system that complements and empowers existing services and practitioners in the delivery of good care and support to people with dementia and their families.

We will play a role in facilitating timely discharge from acute care settings by providing post discharge review and support reducing the likelihood of future admissions.

We will provide support and input to those who develop **BPSD**, where there may be an underlying physical cause and the person cannot, due to their presentation, be physically screened in the usual manner, e.g. in cases where there is suspected infection.

We will improve physical care for those with dementia by facilitating physical health screening to those unable to access services due to their diagnosis.



## How to refer

Referrals to the team will be from GPs and other primary health care services, and from secondary and acute care.

The DCNS will accept referrals directly from GPs or via the DCNS referral form on EMIS sent to:

[ssg-tr.dcms@nhs.net](mailto:ssg-tr.dcms@nhs.net)

**Tel: 020 3513 6320 or Fax to 020 3513 6723**

### **Postal Address:**

DCNS Service  
Wandsworth Older People's Teams  
1st Floor, Building 14  
Springfield University Hospital  
61 Glenburnie Road  
LONDON  
SW17 7DJ

DCNS Service aim to have input into the existing Community Wards and to attend key GP Practice Meetings when potential referrals and referral outcomes can be discussed.

There are plans for DCNS to have access and to input into EMIS so that GP's have up to date information regarding DCNS activity., however this is to be established.

# Useful contacts

## **Alzheimer's Society:**

Runs various events in Wandsworth for those diagnosed with dementia and their carers.

**Tel: 020 8687 0922 (National Helpline 0300 222 1122)**

## **Age UK:**

**Tel: 020 8877 8940 (National 0800 169 6565)**

## **Wandsworth Older Peoples Community Mental Health Team:**

**Tel: 0203 513 6320**

## **Wandsworth Council Switch Board:**

For access to social services and other Depts.

**Tel: 020 8871 6000**

We are the leading provider of mental health services across south west London and a beacon of excellence for national mental health services. We serve a diverse community of people in the boroughs of Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth.

In keeping with the Equality Act 2010 we do not discriminate against people on the grounds of age, race, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, religion and belief, marriage and civil partnership or pregnancy and maternity.

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## Help us make our services even better

The views of patients, their carers, friends and families are at the heart of improving the way we deliver our services. We are committed to delivering high quality care. Your feedback will help us understand what we do well and what we can do better.

## If you would like to give us feedback please contact:

- Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS): 020 3513 6150
- Feedback online at: <https://feedback.swlstg-tr.nhs.uk>
- Care Opinion: [www.careopinion.org.uk](http://www.careopinion.org.uk)

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## Become a member:

To find out about becoming a member

E-mail: [membership@swlstg-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:membership@swlstg-tr.nhs.uk)

## Connect with us



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## Our values



If you require this document in an alternative format please email: [communications@swlstg-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@swlstg-tr.nhs.uk)

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