



Response from the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services to the Alzheimer's Society Consultation 'Recognition Process for Dementia Friendly Communities'.

1. Background

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) represents Directors of Adult Social Services in Local Authorities in England. As well as having statutory responsibilities for the commissioning and provision of social care, ADASS members often also share a number of responsibilities for the commissioning and provision of housing, leisure, library, culture, arts and community services within their Councils.

ADASS welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Alzheimer's Society consultation 'Recognition Process for Dementia Friendly Communities'

ADASS Comments

Q1. Is this the right overall approach?

ADASS strongly encourages the development of dementia friendly communities in contributing to the overall health and well being agenda. It supports our view of a social model of disability; whereby disability is not solely to do with the individual but as something caused by the interaction between the individual and wider society and the environment. The individual is as much disabled by society as by any innate physical condition.

The formation of dementia friendly communities will contribute to society's increased understanding of dementia and will help to facilitate those with the condition.

Q2. Do you think these are the values and standards that we should be aiming for?

We agree that there ought to be common standards and accountabilities for committed communities, and we support the development and implementation of these. However, we also feel that these should not too prescriptive as they could potentially serve as a deterrent to progress, and communities should not be discouraged from taking any steps in contributing to dementia friendly communities.

Q.4 Do you think self assessment on an annual basis is appropriate?

We agree that an annual self assessment allows for ample time to work up to and implement the standards.

Q5. Who should take responsibility for committing to the standards and the subsequent self assessment of activities against these across and entire community? For example could these be local leaders championing the work?

ADASS sees this as an opportunity to involve the whole council and its partners. Leadership could take the form of a locally appointed dementia champion or dementia alliance.

Q6. Do you have any comments on the suggestion that progress reports and mechanisms for feedback should be hosted locally?

We agree that progress reports and mechanisms for feedback should be hosted locally as this will encourage debate and accountability from the local community.

Q9. Do you have any comments that you would like to make?

This is a positive development in enhancing choice and control for Dementia sufferers and carers, and will contribute to removing stigmas often associated with dementia.

The consultation document did not mention a great deal about ways in which communities could become more dementia friendly, and we would welcome examples of how this would work in practice.