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Stevenage Dementia Involvement Group

# Dementia Health Passports



December 2022

# Introduction

Stevenage Dementia Involvement Group provides opportunities for people with experience of dementia to have influence on research and the planning of new services. In each session the group will discuss a particular topic relating to living with dementia or health and social care services in Stevenage.

Stevenage Dementia Involvement Group met face-to-face on 8th December 2022.

In attendance were five people with experience of living with or caring for somebody with dementia.

Attending the group was guest Colin Royle from NHS England.

The topic of discussion was a new **dementia urgent care plan** that Colin is working on.



# What happened?

Colin introduced a new dementia urgent care plan that his team have been working on. It has been co-produced with people living with dementia.

The urgent care plan consists of one form and is short and easy to read by health care staff. It contains the most important information about a person living with dementia.

The form can be downloaded by families and filled out at home. People can then bring the form with them to different healthcare settings.

Colin went through each question with the group and asked for their feedback.



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**IMAGE** | Members of the Stevenage Dementia Involvement Group on 08/12/2022





## Initial thoughts about the urgent care plan?

The group said:

- This is a good and useful idea. It is something they would use.
- It reminded the group of the Message in a Bottle initiative where medication and important information is stored in your fridge for emergency services to access. It was suggested that storing this form with this would be helpful.
- The main concern was how to make sure that the the healthcare staff actually read what is written. Making it short and easy to read will help with this.
- A similar initiative by the Alzheimer's Society was mentioned and experience using this at a hospital was shared.



# Suggestions on how to improve the form?

The group suggested:

- Space for a photograph would be helpful. Sometimes people do not always answer their name.
- The question about communication should be moved to the top of the form as it is one of the most important questions.
- Make sure that hard copies are available, not everybody is online or has a printer at home.
- Making the care plan stand out will help health care staff to take notice of it. Perhaps a bold colour or printed on card?
- This can be used in other settings too (e.g. Adult Social Services).
- Numbering the 3 important things would make the form clearer.

# Next steps

This group provided people with experience of living with dementia the opportunity to provide feedback on a new urgent care plan. The form will be launched on the [DCAN website](#) in 2023.

For the guest, this session provided the opportunity to hear people's experiences and to get the views and opinions on potential users of this urgent care plan.

This summary report has been read and approved by the group members who attended.

This group is organised by researchers from the University of Hertfordshire as part of the National Institute of Health Research Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) East of England. For more information, or if you are interested in joining or visiting the group, please contact Nicole Jones ([nicole.jones@cpft.nhs.uk](mailto:nicole.jones@cpft.nhs.uk)) or visit our website <https://arc-ee.nihr.ac.uk/stevenage-dementia-involvement-group> (or use the QR code below)



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