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Director of Mental Health and Disability



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

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Date: 17th May 2010

IMPROVING DEMENTIA SERVICES IN NORTHERN IRELAND- A REGIONAL STRATEGY

The Bamford Action Plan 2009-2011, published in October 2009, includes a commitment to develop a dementia services strategy.

A draft dementia strategy, *Improving Dementia Services in Northern Ireland- A Regional Strategy*, is now being issued for formal consultation. The draft strategy is available in the 'E-Consultations' section of the Department's website at http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/current_consultations.htm.

Overview of Dementia Strategy

As part of the development process, the Alzheimer's Society was commissioned by the DHSSPS to carry out targeted research on the views of people with dementia and their carers to inform the strategy. These views, in turn, have helped to shape the values and principles which underpin the strategy.

Key messages in the strategy are:

- **Prevention** - there is some scope to prevent or delay the onset of dementia- mainly through a healthy lifestyle approach and reduction in cardiovascular risk factors;
- **Raising awareness and addressing stigma** associated with the condition;
- **Access to early diagnosis**, enhancing existing memory services to agreed standards to provide assessment, diagnosis, information and support;
- **Staged approach to care and support** as the condition progresses, with the aim of maintaining daily living and independence as far as possible;
- **Improving staff awareness and skills** to respond appropriately to people's needs; and

- **Redesign of services** to provide care and support, as far as possible, in people's own homes and avoid admission to hospital or care home.

How to Respond to Consultation

The NI Office of the Dementia Services Development Centre has been commissioned by the DHSSPS to carry out and report on a targeted consultation for people with dementia and their carers. The Centre proposes to use a variety of methods to include one to one meetings with a small number of people with dementia, focus groups and larger public meetings, all using an easy read version of the document. Further details about this aspect of the consultation are available through the DSDC website <http://www.dementiacentreni.org> , or by contacting the Centre on 028 90737846.

Written responses from individuals and organisations are most welcome. A consultation response framework, which individuals/organisations may wish to use to compile a response, is also available on the departmental website http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/current_consultations.htm.

All consultation responses should be returned **no later than Tuesday 31 August 2010**, to:

E-mail: nidementiastrategy@dhsspsni.gov.uk

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The Department would like to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals and organisations who contributed to the development of this draft document. In particular, we wish to thank individuals and carers for their valuable contribution.

Yours sincerely



DR MAURA BRISCOE