

# Dementia Factsheet

## Live-in Care specialists

Agincare

Caring in Your Community

## Live-in Care



## Our Approach

Agincare's excellent reputation for providing high quality and person centred services is achieved through not having a 'one size fits all' approach to our service provision. Our ethos is to provide a holistic service, which enables you to maintain full control of your care so that it fits around your chosen lifestyle and preferences.

We understand that by providing specialist person centred dementia care the quality of life for you and your family and friends can be significantly enhanced. Each plan of care is bespoke and tailored to your unique requirements and we undertake reviews of your care plan as and when your needs change. Feedback shows that this approach makes a real difference, especially with helping you retain a good level of independence and your previous hobbies and interests.

This type of illness can bring many challenges to everyone involved and close to you. Our experience within this specialist area ensures that we can continually develop and add to our wide range of services and information sources available. These are all fully utilised along with the provision of our specialist trained care workers.

Although some symptoms are common to many people with dementia, each person's experience of the illness will be different. Our care workers are trained to recognise that there may be a greater requirement to focus on a range of practical issues that will increase as your condition progresses. Continuous reassurance and support for you, your family and friends is a vital part of your care provision.

## Further Information

Alzheimer's Society  
[www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk)

Carers Trust  
[www.carers.org](http://www.carers.org)

Dementia UK  
[www.dementiauk.org](http://www.dementiauk.org)

Department of Health  
[www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

## Training

All of our care and support workers complete the nationally recognised 'Common Induction Standards', which include the basic principles of dementia care. Specific client needs-led training is taught by internal and external trainers and/or healthcare professionals. In addition to this, Agincare has an internal 'Dementia Care Pathway' training programme in place.

- Person centred dementia care
- Effects on feelings and behaviours
- Mental capacity and deprivation of liberty safeguards
- Behaviour that challenges
- Supporting & working with families and friends

Agincare runs a Dementia Champions programme. These individuals act as leaders of best practice, person centred dementia care delivery and provide support to all care workers throughout the organisation.

Our Training Department works closely with our Group Quality Manager, as well as local and national organisations, to continually appraise and enhance our training portfolio.



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## Testimonial

*"Thank you for making Christmas one of the best my mother has had in years. The care worker prepared excellent food, spent time with my mother and even played music for my mother to sing along to. Everything has changed for the better for my mother since we changed to Agincare over the Christmas period. Mum is now so much calmer and content in her home and this is all down to the care she has received and the experience of the care worker."* Daughter

## Types of Dementia

Dementia describes a set of symptoms which include loss of memory, mood changes, and problems with communication and reasoning. These symptoms occur when the brain is damaged by certain diseases and/or a series of small strokes.

**Alzheimer's disease** – this is the most common cause of dementia. During the course of the disease the chemistry and structure of the brain change, leading to the death of brain cells. Problems of short-term memory are usually the first noticeable sign.

**Vascular dementia** – if the oxygen supply to the brain fails due to vascular disease, brain cells are likely to die and this can cause the symptoms of vascular dementia. These symptoms can occur either suddenly, following a stroke, or over time through a series of small strokes.

**Dementia with Lewy bodies** – this form of dementia gets its name from tiny abnormal structures that develop inside nerve cells. Their presence in the brain leads to the degeneration of brain tissue. This form of dementia shares some characteristics with Parkinson's disease.

**Fronto-temporal dementia** (including Pick's disease) – in fronto-temporal dementia, damage is usually focused in the front part of the brain. At first, personality and behaviour changes are the most obvious signs.

## Symptoms of Dementia

These may include the following:

**Loss of memory** - particularly affects short-term memory, for example forgetting what happened earlier in the day, not being able to recall conversations, being repetitive or forgetting the way home from the shops. Long-term memory is usually still quite good.

**Mood changes** - people with dementia may be withdrawn, sad, frightened or angry about what is happening to them.

**Communication problems** - including problems finding the right words for things, for example describing the function of an item instead of naming it.

In the latter stages of dementia, the person affected will have problems carrying out everyday tasks and will become increasingly dependent on other people.

*"The client assessment of need carried out by your assessor was the best we have ever seen"*

Continuing Health Care (CHC) Team

## Accreditations

