



Dear colleague

A call to action on Dementia Training

We are writing to you to ask for your continued support on a key part of the government's 2020 Challenge on Dementia – improving dementia education and training.

Excellent training and education for staff is integral to delivering effective dementia care and is a key priority for delivering our vision: to be the best country in the world for people with dementia and their carers to live in.

In 2018, the Dementia Workforce Task and Finish Group, overseen by the Dementia Programme Board, concluded their work. They identified a number of opportunities to improve dementia training and education. We are writing to you to seek your support in delivering these important actions.

Training standards

Continuing to ensure that the relevant learning outcomes set out in the [Dementia Training Standards](#) are incorporated during design, delivery and commissioning of training will help to make dementia training consistently high quality. We would encourage those designing or commissioning training to quality assure their products against the findings of the '[What Works' Study](#) (Leeds Beckett University) to help to reduce variability in training quality.

Keeping dementia education and training a priority

We would like to take this opportunity to ask you to continue to ensure dementia training and education remains a priority and that providers are supported to release staff to attend training, particularly for the higher tiers of training (tiers 2 and 3, for more specialist learning).

Sharing best practice and using networks

We encourage you to continue a dialogue on dementia training within your organisations and networks, and to explore ways to share best practice across local systems. Engaging with Health Education England, Skills for Care and other Arms Length Bodies also enables the sharing of good practice.

Together we must ensure health and care staff have access to the right knowledge and skills they need to deliver the care and support that people living with dementia expect and deserve. With this in mind, one of our next priorities is to encourage further uptake of the higher tiers of training (***tiers 2 and 3***) for those ***working regularly*** with people living with dementia and those in ***leadership or clinical expert roles***.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the significant progress that has been made since the launch of the Dementia Challenge. These include the launch of the [Dementia Training Standards Framework](#), and the fantastic milestone of one million NHS staff receiving tier 1 dementia awareness training; and over one million care workers completing the Care Certificate, or common induction standards. We should be immensely proud of these achievements and we would like to thank you all for your leadership and commitment to meeting this challenge.

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Minister of State for Care

Ian Cumming
Chief Executive,
Health Education England

Sharon Allen
Chief Executive,
Skills for Care