

Jeremy Hughes CBE
Chief Executive
Alzheimer's Society
Devon House
50 St Katherine's Way
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23 March 2016

Dear Jeremy

Thank you for your letter of 13 January regarding the Alzheimer's Society campaign on dementia care.

In the Five Year Forward View we made a commitment to provide consistent and improved services for people with dementia and their carers across England. We have seen some success, with an improvement in the proportion of patients being assessed for dementia on admission to hospital rising from 71% in the first quarter of 2013/14 to over 90% in October 2015.

However we recognise that we can do more, and we are supporting the Dementia Action Alliance with their dementia friendly campaign and have been strong advocates for John's Campaign which promotes the rights of carers to stay in hospital with the person they are caring for.

More widely, following the Prime Minister's Challenge on dementia, we have increased the national dementia diagnosis rate, moving from 52 per cent in March 2014 to 67.2 per cent in December 2015. This means that we are diagnosing at least two thirds of people with dementia and thereby helping many more people to access post-diagnostic support.

Recognising and assessing symptoms of possible dementia in patients admitted to hospital is very good, with more than 80 per cent of trusts meeting a challenging 90% target. But as the Alzheimer's Society campaign has shown, we need all NHS funded care to be as good as the best, from diagnosis through to after care, and both in and outside of hospitals. NHS England will be encouraging trusts to publish an annual dementia statement, to set out the quality of the care they provide. Additionally, we are exploring, with the Department of Health, ways in which we could require hospitals to publish an annual dementia statement. We will be in better position to confirm progress on this in a few months and we will update you on this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Stevens', with a small arrow pointing to the right below the signature.

Simon Stevens
CEO, NHS England