

## **Themes & Questions - Dementia Carers' Support Panel**

**Irene Jeffrey**, Chief Executive, Crossroads West Kent

**Claire Bateman**, Alzheimer's Dementia and Adult Family Support Officer, Swale and Canterbury Carers' Support

**Kate Gollop**, Volcare

**Tanya Stephens**, Carer Support Worker, West Kent NHS Carers' Support Project

(Written evidence has been requested from Ron Alexander, Chief Executive of Carers Frist and Tricia Cole, Carers' Support Dover District and Thanet who are now unable to attend the hearing.)

1. Could you each please give a brief introduction to your organisation's services with regard to dementia, and your own role? How are people referred, how many people do you currently support and do you have capacity to meet the needs of those people who are referred?
2. How is your organisation funded and what impact, if any will the current financial constraints have upon your services? What is the cost of your service to the person with dementia/carer and what is the impact of this on various groups of people e.g. those receiving social care, self-funders?
3. If a person has undiagnosed dementia – what are the implications for accessing services and support for either themselves or those that support them?
4. What have you learned about younger onset dementia and the specific needs of families and carers – are appropriate services available – if not, what is required?
5. In your experience of supporting carers for people with dementia, what are the issues around a carer being able to look after his or her own health needs?
6. We have the Carers Card as a back-up in the event that a carer is unable to provide their usual support but what about people who live alone – what is in place, or should be in place for them?
7. Is there anything about the way local authorities provide information or services that is not helpful, or for example, is not mindful of addressing the stigma that some people believe is attached to dementia?
8. The NHS have just launched a national dementia awareness campaign which focuses on getting an early diagnosis – is this the right message – what else needs to be got across and to whom?
9. From your experiences in providing support and knowledge of the issues of most concern to people with dementia and their carers, where are the gaps and what could be done to address them?
10. Are there any other issues that you feel the Select Committee should address?