

Dementia Select Committee – Hearing 23rd March 2011

1.30-2.15 Joint interview, Pat Brown and Fiona Martin

Pat and Fiona will make a presentation to incorporate as many of the suggested themes as possible, following which any remaining questions, or questions arising, can be asked.

Biographies

Pat Brown, Admiral Nurse Clinical Lead, East Kent Admiral Nursing Service, Kent & Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust

Pat has been a trained mental health nurse since 1994. Since completing the 'Thorn' training in family work (Institute of Psychiatry, London) Pat has continued her interest in supporting and working with families affected by mental illness. She joined the new East Kent Admiral Nurse team in 2008 as Clinical Lead.

Admiral Nurses support families who are living with dementia and have a clear focus of supporting and enabling the family carer. The Admiral nursing approach has strengthened her passion for working with families affected by dementia. Works in secondary care

Fiona Martin, Admiral Nurse Clinical Lead, West Kent Admiral Nursing Service, Kent & Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust

Fiona has been a trained mental health nurse 1984 and was one of the first nurse prescribers in Kent. Her work in the past has been with older people but now she works also with people who have younger onset dementia, and their families.

She believes passionately in the rights of people with dementia to a clear and concise diagnosis. She took up her current post last January with the remit to work within GP surgeries to try to break down barriers between getting a diagnosis and family support so while building up the role of Admiral Nursing within Primary care, she is also pioneering needs of people with dementia and their families.

Themes & Questions

1. Could you please give us an overview of the Admiral Nursing Service, how it is funded and provided in Kent and whether there are any threats to the service or plans to develop it.
2. Could you tell us for example about the ratio of nurses to people/families requiring support and your capacity to provide help where needed?
3. Do Admiral Nurses work similarly across the county or does the role differ – are the same services available to people living in different

areas of Kent e.g. in terms of location, referral mechanisms or integrated working?

4. What in your view could help to improve continuity of support for people with dementia and their carers, and eliminate gaps within or between services?
5. Please could you tell us about the specialist training that Admiral Nurses receive and whether you offer training to others?
6. Are you able to support only people/families who receive a diagnosis of dementia?
7. Dementia UK's response to the National Dementia Strategy spoke of 'bespoke dementia services' – how do you envisage these would look and how could they be achieved in Kent while protecting existing good practice in care and support?
8. In light of the government's current awareness-raising campaign, does more need to be done to get across the message (to professionals such as GPs as well as the public) that if there are suspicions of dementia, getting a diagnosis as early as possible is the right thing to do? Is it always the right thing to do?
9. If anyone is concerned about a person they know, or loved one who is showing signs believed to be of dementia – what is your advice?