

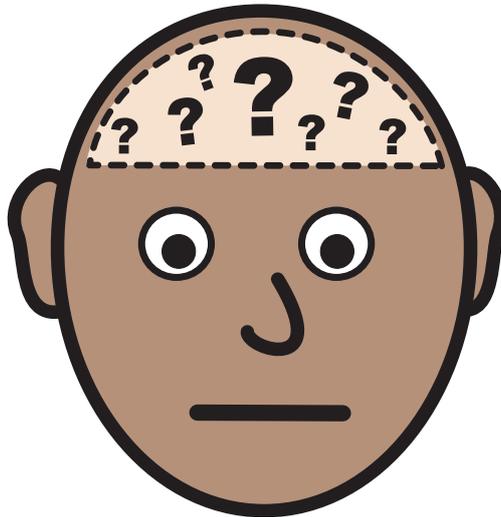


Information for service users/carers

What you need to know

Dementia

dementia



LDS

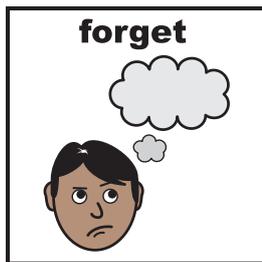
Learning Disability Service

What is Dementia?



- Dementia is an illness that affects the way the brain normally works.
- It affects the way people do the things they used to do.
- The illness usually happens slowly.
- Dementia can affect anyone, but it does affect more people with a learning disability and Down's syndrome.

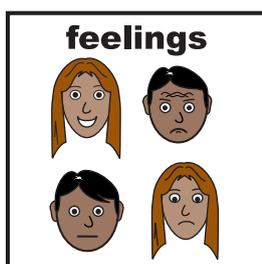
How might you know if the person has dementia?



Starts to forget things like names and places.



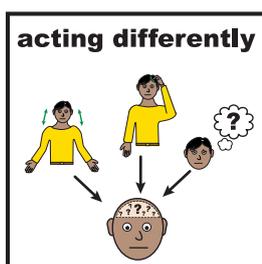
More difficulty doing everyday things that they would normally be able to do.



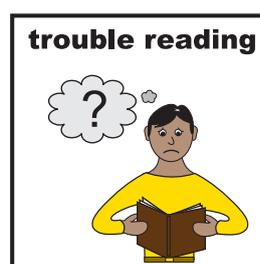
Feel sad, frightened angry or confused.



Have difficulty with talking and reading.

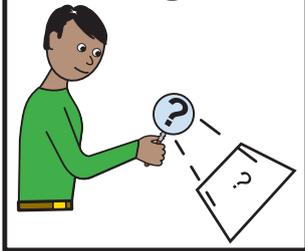


Behaviour changes (Unusual/ different/not just challenging)



Finding Out

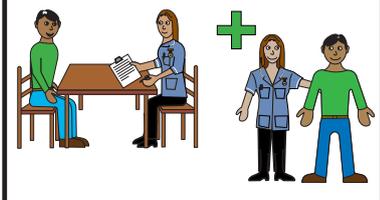
finding out



It can be hard to tell if the person has Dementia. Sometimes there are other illnesses that may look like Dementia:-

- Infections
- Physical illness
- Depression
- Stress
- Side effects of medication
- Just getting older

assessment and treatment



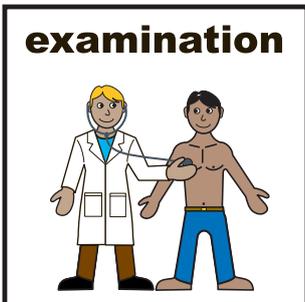
It is good to find out as early as possible, to help with treatment. One way is for the person to have a baseline check, then to have further checks later to see if there have been any changes.

question



The checks mean asking the person and their carer questions about skills and what the person does each day, to see if there is any change.

examination



There will be other medical tests like blood tests and brain scans. The health worker will explain what they are, if needed. The checks might also involve looking at how well the person understand words, make sense of pictures, numbers and puzzles and remember things.

How you can help someone with Dementia



- Try not to make changes to routines.
- Try to keep the person doing as much as they can.
- Allow lots of time and patience.
- Use pictures, signs, and photographs to help them communicate.
- Keep the person's important items in the same place.

This will help keep the person stress free.



You can get more information and facts sheets from:



Alzheimer's Society

www.alzheimers.org.uk



Telephone