



Alzheimer Scotland
Action on Dementia

What now for dementia in Scotland?

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Dementia deserves better –
Make dementia a priority in the 21st century

Injustice anywhere is a threat to
justice everywhere.

Martin Luther King

1 Introduction

Making dementia a priority – more than a sound bite

Need for action on a broad front

It can be done:

- Australia
- France – a national plan
- Japan – the Health Ministry plans to train one million dementia supporters by the end of 2009
- ? Scotland

2 Preventing the epidemic

- Invest now in a major public health campaign.
- Support research into better treatments.
- Invest now in early stage services which reduce need for expensive services later in the illness.



3 Recommendations for services (1)

- i. Funding for a programme of self-management courses for people with dementia jointly with their carers.
- ii. Restore the availability of drug treatments for people with mild Alzheimer's disease.
- iii. Increased funding for services such as home care, day care and short breaks and recognition that personalised care through specialised dementia services may be more cost effective in the long term by allowing people to remain in their home for longer.



3 Recommendations for services (2)

- iv. Improved training in dementia care.
- v. Every person in a care home whom staff believe may have dementia should be given a medical assessment and there should be improved access to doctors and specialist services for care home residents.
- vi. The recommendations of the report on free personal care should be carried out and allowances uprated in line with increases in care home fees.

5 Resources

- As a minimum target, resource for dementia should be increased in line with demographic growth.

6 Thinking creatively

We need to be prepared to explore new ways of delivering dementia services in order to cope with demand.

7 One more thought

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

Martin Luther King