

Connecting people, connecting support.

The allied health professional offer to people living with dementia in Scotland

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Background

This poster outlines the key elements of the policy document 'Connecting people, connecting support' sharing the visual executive summary. This policy document in addition to fulfilling a specific commitment in Scotland's National Dementia Strategy 2013-2016, will also be a supporting document of the proposed National Dementia Strategy in 2017, the Active and Independent Living Improvement Programme (2016:18) and other ongoing dementia-focused policy initiatives in Scotland. The policy document will be of interest not only to people living with dementia and practicing AHP's, but also integrated joint boards, managers and AHP leaders.

What is 'Connecting People, Connecting Support?'

Connecting people, connecting support is about how allied health professionals (AHPs) in Scotland can support people living with dementia to have positive, fulfilling and independent lives for as long as possible. Its aim is to ensure the rehabilitation skills and expertise of the AHP workforce have an even greater positive impact on the lives, experiences and outcomes of people living with dementia than is currently the case.

Key Messages

- AHPs can make a positive difference to the lives of people living with dementia.
- Making that positive difference is not about doing more – it's about doing different.
- Connecting people and connecting support for people living with dementia calls for a multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral approach in which AHPs play a unique part.
- The AHP offer is about re-tailoring AHPs' skill-sets to focus specifically on the needs of people living with dementia.
- The AHP offer supports AHPs to adapt their profession-specific knowledge and skills to achieve the best outcomes.

Evidence base

As well as written evidence developed through research, Connecting people, connecting support draws heavily on evidence collected by Alzheimer Scotland from people living with dementia and their families, a scoping exercise on post-diagnosis support and research on the impact of AHP consultants. The evidence for action therefore reflects three levels:

conversations with people living with dementia and their families using appreciative inquiry approaches to support participants to effect self-determined change by identifying what works best for them

collaboration with health and social care practitioners, higher education institutions and AHP professional bodies through engagement events and publications

evidence from research, literature reviews and scoping evaluations.

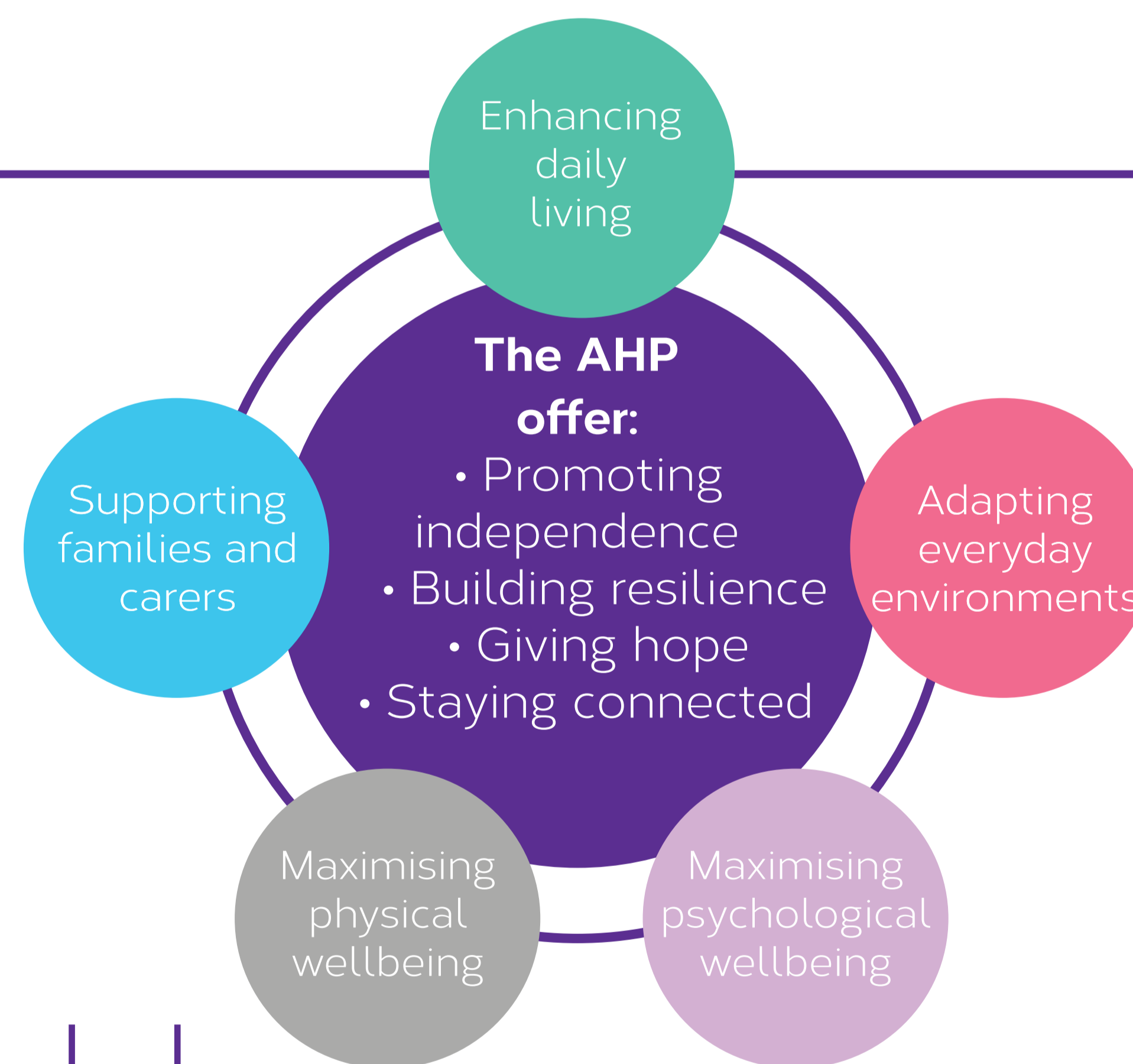
all the evidence is available at www.alzscot.org/ahp

The AHP offer

The offer aims to maximise the AHP contribution to high-quality, cost-effective dementia services that are tailored to the needs of individuals, reflect the best available evidence and are delivered by a skilled AHP workforce.

The aspiration is that people living with dementia, their families and carers have access to a range of AHPs in their own home, in a homely setting or in hospital, regardless of age or place of residence, early in their diagnosis and throughout the care journey.

The AHP offer focuses primarily, but not exclusively, on five key elements.



The elements are presented separately, but must be considered collectively within the overall AHP rehabilitation approach for individuals.

Four underpinning principles

The four underpinning principles for supporting people living with dementia for all AHPs are as follows.

Human rights will be at the forefront of each and every AHP interaction, with an emphasis on participation and empowerment, and recognition of personhood, identity and value.

AHPs will deliver services to people living with dementia using the biopsychosocial approach to rehabilitation, integrating the five key elements of the AHP offer, best clinical practice and what people say is important to them.

Dementia is every AHP's business. AHPs will offer services in dementia-aware environments, with people living with dementia being active contributors to the AHP rehabilitation process.

AHPs will **adapt and tailor their rehabilitation interventions**, taking into account the changing needs of people living with dementia.

Four ambitions

Four ambitions support local implementation of the AHP offer:

1. **Enhanced access** to AHP-led information, supported self-management and direct interventions
2. **Partnership and integration**, contributing to a personal-outcomes approach, multiagency pathways and integrated models of care
3. **The AHP workforce is skilled in dementia care**, with a commitment to leadership for transforming AHP practice
4. **Success is measured and evidenced**, utilising and generating research and integrating improvement science within everyday AHP practice.

For further information or copies of Connecting people, connecting support, please contact Elaine at ehunter@alzscot.org or follow us on twitter at @elaineahpmh #AHPDementia & #ConnectingPeople

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References
Scottish Government 2013 Scotland's National Dementia Strategy
Scottish Government 2016 Health and Social Care Delivery Plan

