Priorities and Focus Areas 2023/24
Scottish Dementia Working Group (SDWG)

Priorities 2023/24

Active Voice - "Enabling and promoting the diverse voices of people with dementia and carers to campaign for, promote and uphold rights and drive change."

Dementia supports & services
Lived experience shows there is still much to be done to support people living with dementia after diagnosis. We will continue to campaign for better dementia supports & service, such as post diagnostic support (PDS)

Brain health
We will promote good brain health & action that can reduce the risk of diseases that can lead to dementia. We will advocate for and support the development of an improved diagnosis pathway, services & supports for people pre-diagnosis

Influencing policy & practice
We will continue to build & develop our work aimed at raising awareness about dementia and ensuring that people living with dementia have a voice in policies & practice

Human rights of people with dementia

Research
We will maintain a keen interest in relevant research development and engage in appropriate research activities

Equality & Diversity
We will work to hear from all people living with dementia across the whole of society, including minority groups, by providing them with an active voice

Tackling stigma
We will tackle stigmatising language and attitudes where these are encountered. We will seek to change perceptions and to raise awareness about dementia and people living with dementia

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Dementia Supports and Services

- Campaigning for improved, dedicated Post Diagnostic Support & support pre-diagnosis to meet people’s needs
- Advocating for a dedicated Young Onset Dementia pathway & services
- Calling for complete health checks for people living with dementia, at least once a year
- Championing supports and services to meet people’s needs throughout their dementia journey

Brain Health

- Supporting the development of a dedicated programme of pre-diagnosis support for people with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI)
- Promoting information and advice to help maintain good brain health
- Campaigning for an improved diagnosis pathway with early detection and an early and timely diagnosis
Influencing Policy and Practice

- Influencing & monitoring delivery of national policy & practice, such as the Scottish Government’s National Dementia Strategy and National Care Service
- Working with partners to deliver a better deal for people living with dementia, such as through the Fair Dementia Care campaign and the Long-Term Care Commission
- Supporting partners to ensure that service provision and workforce knowledge and practice are informed by people with lived experience
- Building local connections to consult with people affected by dementia from all over Scotland

Research

- Working as partners in research
- Promoting confident conversations in research
- Supporting the commissioning of purposeful research
Equality and Diversity

- Understanding the needs and wishes of people living with dementia across all values, beliefs, communities & traditions
- Reaching people in rural communities
- Promoting confident conversations on equality & diversity
- Hearing from hidden and quieter voices

Tackling Stigma

- Advancing a positive image of dementia
- Working with partners to improve awareness through education and outreach
- Advocating positive and inclusive language
- Promoting members blogs and challenging stigma
- Raising awareness of Young Onset Dementia