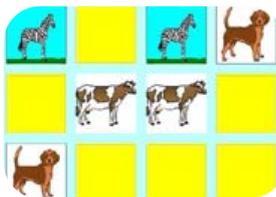




DEMENTIA IN PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

INFORMATION SHEET



What is Dementia?

Dementia is the loss of mental abilities such as thinking, remembering, and reasoning. This usually happens gradually.

It is caused by diseases or conditions affecting the brain. Alzheimer's disease is one type of dementia that you may have heard of.

Memory loss is a major problem. Things that are done on a daily basis can also be impaired. This includes understanding and judgement. Sometimes there is a change in personality.

Why mention Dementia now?

Dementia is an illness that generally effects people in later life. We all live longer lives because of better medical care, diet and other things. People with learning disabilities also live longer. Unfortunately, this means that they have a higher risk of developing dementia.



People with learning disabilities, especially Down's Syndrome, may already find some mental tasks difficult. This makes it harder to assess whether or not the person has dementia. An assessment of ability is needed.



We would like to assess the general ability of people with learning disabilities before there are any concerns regarding dementia.



What are the benefits of the assessment?

If we carry out an assessment now, in the future it will be much easier to work out whether the person has dementia.



This is a good thing because we can find out early what help is needed. We can advise carers how best to support someone with a learning disability and dementia.



We can inform Westminster Health and Social Services that more support is needed for the individual.

We may also be able to find out if someone is currently suffering from dementia and offer support immediately.



What happens in the assessment?

We would like to spend time with the person with a learning disability and carry out some short tasks with them.



We would also like to spend some time with the main carer for the individual, to talk about the person with a disability's everyday skills.

What happens next?

You don't have to do anything. Somebody from The Westminster Learning Disability Partnership will contact you. We will then arrange a time to meet with the person with learning disability and the main carer. We will then explain everything in more detail to you.



I will not get into trouble if I say no to the assessment!



In case you want to find out more, or if you are concerned about dementia, you can phone the Westminster Learning Disability Partnership on 020 7641 7411 or Stephan on 020 7150 8046.