

Approach and Dougie Mac Strategic Alliance Executive Summary

Why have a Strategic Alliance?

Dementia has now overtaken heart disease as the leading cause of death in the UK. Across the country, approximately 850,000 people are currently living with dementia; a figure that is expected to rise to 1 million by 2025. In Staffordshire, more than 12,000 people are currently living with dementia and around 4,000 live in Stoke-on-Trent alone. The need for a joined-up approach to provide effective dementia support has never been greater.

In light of this, Approach Dementia Support and the Douglas Macmillan Hospice (Dougie Mac) have joined together as a Strategic Alliance in order to ensure that local people affected by dementia are able to access the right support at the right time and live their life in the way that they choose.

What is the vision and mission of the Strategic Alliance?

Our strategic alliance vision is... to work together to integrate quality dementia services across our heartland of Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire.

Our strategic alliance mission is... to respond effectively to the growing need for cohesive dementia support across our heartland by collaborating as two organisations with a shared ethos of compassion for the most vulnerable in our community.

What are we going to do?

To fulfil our mission and vision, the strategic alliance between Approach and Dougie Mac has prioritised the following strategic aims:

1. To enable a consistent journey from dementia diagnosis to end of life
2. To share resources as required to ensure the right support at the right time
3. To increase staff knowledge, skills and resilience as part of a team
4. To develop a carer enablement program from diagnosis to end of life

Our progress in meeting these strategic aims will be regularly reviewed on a quarterly basis, allowing for discussion on how best to fulfil the mission and vision of the alliance.

How are we going to do it?

One of the main methods by which the strategic alliance will meet its aims and objectives is through the use of a comprehensive assessment tool. To be launched in 2021, this assessment tool will allow individuals, carers, Approach and Dougie Mac staff to assess the dementia stage of an individual. Based on this assessment, referrals can be made to the right services for their needs. For example, people with mild to moderate dementia may be ideally suited to Approach's group offerings whilst people in more advanced stages of dementia may be better supported by Dougie Mac's Admiral Nurse team. This tool embodies the values of our strategic alliance. Through use of the assessment tool, both organisations will develop a joined-up, holistic model of dementia support for the local community which puts the individual at the centre of their support, thus providing an integrated dementia support offering for local people across our heartland.

To conclude...

As the prevalence of dementia increases both nationally and locally, there is a social and moral urgency for quality, cohesive dementia support that puts the person at the centre of their dementia journey. The shared ethos between Approach and Dougie Mac means that dignity, compassion, and care are at the heart of what we do. These values will drive forward our strategic alliance plan, and act as the foundation for our commitment to improving the wellbeing of local people affected by dementia with a seamless, cohesive, and tailored model of support.