

The needs of
dementia carers

Southampton
City Council



Public Affairs and
Campaigns

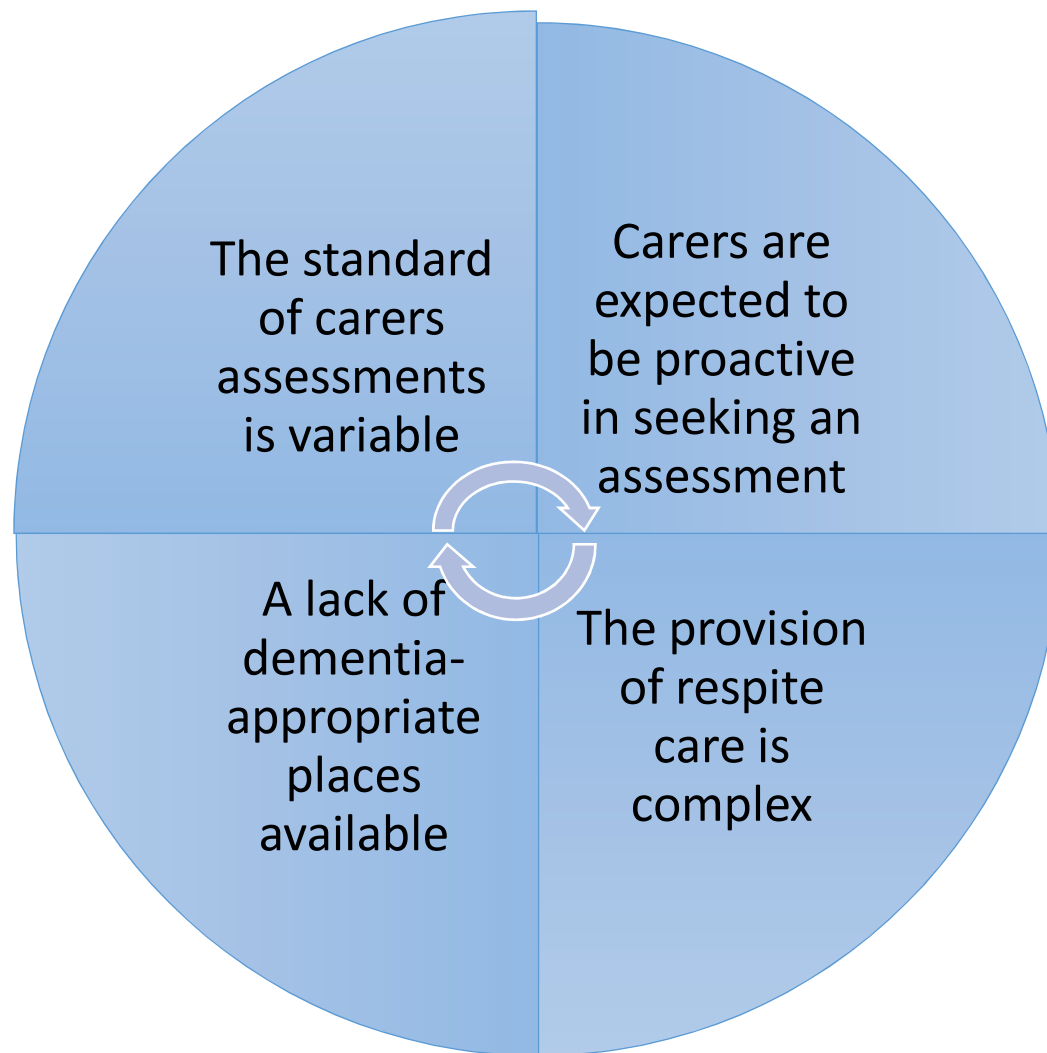
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November 2020



The Fog of Support

carers experience



Carers assessments

carers experience



The majority of carers had not received a carer's assessment

For the 53% who hadn't had an assessment, this was due to:



not having been offered one (47%)



not being aware of carer's assessments (16%)



being told they were not eligible for one (4%)

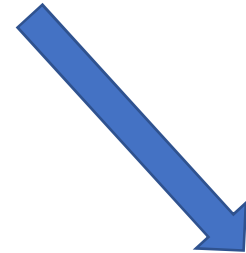


other reasons (2%)

Carers assessments

carers experience

Carers are expected to be proactive in seeking an assessment.



Local authorities struggle to identify carers

Carers lack time or capacity to seek support



Large gaps in care and support



Carers assessments

carers experience



The standard of carers assessments is variable

Impersonal and conducted by
telephone

Limited in the understanding of
individual circumstances

Challenges in knowing what to ask in
terms of support

Respite care

carers experience

Over 80% of carers in the UK had not had social services support to take a break from caring

Lack of dementia-appropriate places available in respite

Guilt associated with respite and replacement care

Carers are not taking breaks away from caring



Lack of data

carers experience

Lack of data at a national and local level on spending towards carer assessments and respite care

No joined up approach in capturing and acting upon data

Carers asked to repeat their stories when meeting new professionals

First Hit: the carers experience caring for people with dementia during the coronavirus pandemic

findings

73%



of carers reported that their caring responsibilities have increased during lockdown.

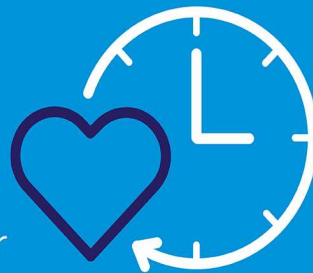
76%



reported their caring responsibilities had increased because of worsening dementia symptoms of the person they care for.

92 million

extra hours have been spent by family and friends caring for loved ones with dementia.



95%

of carers of people living with dementia reported a negative impact on their mental or physical health.



The Fog of Support

Local Recommendations

Identification of carers and provision of carers assessments

- Carers strategies should set out clear and ambitious targets and plans for increasing the identification of carers.
- Councils should proactively offer carers assessments to people when they are identified as carers, rather than wait for a request for an assessment.
- New carers should be contacted about carers assessments within four weeks.
- Carers should be actively consulted and receive targeted advice and support, including the offer of psychological support to carers.
- Carers' assessments should be provided at least annually by people trained to Tier 2 of the NHS-backed Dementia Training Standards Framework.
- Councils should ensure that carers' assessments are provided in person and, if a telephone assessment is unavoidable, should always offer follow up face-to-face meetings.
- Councils should ensure records for carers are collected individually, with a link to the records of the person they care for.

Provision of respite care

- Councils should provide a straightforward method of booking overnight care in advance.
- Councils should ensure availability of dementia-appropriate respite places.

Additional support to carers

- Councils should encourage and promote peer support groups for carers of people living with dementia, including for younger carers.
- Councils should ensure particular language, communication or cultural needs are met.
- Councils should regularly review their use of language in policy and practice.

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Local priorities

- ✓ *Carer Identification and Recognition*
- ✓ *Information and Advice*
- ✓ *Collaborative and Innovative Support*
- ✓ *Support in Maintaining Health, Wellbeing and Safety*
- ✓ *Planned and Unplanned Breaks from Caring*
- ✓ *Young Carers Protected and Supported to Learn and Thrive*

Thank you!

