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From:

Sir Ian Carruthers, OBE
Chief Executive
NHS South West

And

David Behan, CBE
Director General of Social Care
Department of Health

To:

PCT Chief Executives
Directors of Adult Social Services

21 July 2011

Launch of Dementia Commissioning Pack, 21 July 2011

I am pleased to confirm that the Minister for Health, Paul Burstow, MP and the National Clinical Director for Dementia, Professor Alistair Burns, have today launched a Dementia Commissioning Pack. The Pack was promised in the Revision to the Operating Framework for 2010/11.

The Dementia Commissioning Pack provides practical resources for health and social care commissioners to work together to improve the quality of both specialist dementia services and general health and care services for people with dementia and their carers. The pack has been developed in consultation with a range of health and social care commissioners and providers, people with dementia and their carers/families, and advocacy groups. It sets out a framework for commissioning to deliver integrated care, person-centred services, better outcomes, and improved return on investment.

The Pack provides a commissioning framework, the clinical evidence and economic case for change, best practice specifications and costing tools, and information for people using services. Opportunities to review and reduce the inappropriate prescribing of antipsychotics for people with dementia features throughout the resource and linked to the national initiative: The Right Prescription: a call to action on the use of antipsychotic drugs for people with dementia.¹The Pack will be published on the

¹ http://www.institute.nhs.uk/qipp/calls_to_action/Dementia_and_antipsychotic_drugs.html

Department of Health website², with supporting materials on the National Dementia Information Portal³.

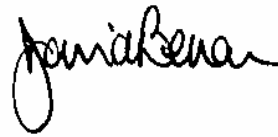
A series of local workshops will be offered to support local implementation and these will be set up collaboratively by Strategic Health Authorities, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the Alzheimer's Society and the Department of Health in each region. Details will be circulated locally.

Please can you ensure that staff and local stakeholders are aware of this publication and are encouraged to use the materials as part of the commissioning process.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Ian Carruthers, OBE
Chief Executive,
NHS South West
National Dementia Champion



David Behan, CBE
Director General for Social Care, Local
Government and Care Partnerships
Department of Health

Copy to:
Chief Executives of Strategic Health Authorities
Chief Executives of Local Authorities
Deputy Regional Directors of Social Care

² www.dh.gov.uk/publications

³ www.dementia.dh.gov.uk