



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Dementia and people with learning disabilities: making reasonable adjustments

About Public Health England

Public Health England exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. We do this through world-leading science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. We are an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care, and a distinct delivery organisation with operational autonomy. We provide government, local government, the NHS, Parliament, industry and the public with evidence-based professional, scientific and delivery expertise and support.

About the Public Health England Learning Disabilities Observatory

The Public Health England Learning Disabilities Observatory (PHELD0) was set up in April 2010 to provide high quality data and information about the health and healthcare of people with learning disabilities. We are also known as Improving Health and Lives (IHaL). This name was suggested for the Observatory at a consultation with self-advocates organised for the Department of Health by Mencap. The information helps commissioners and providers of health and social care to understand the needs of people with learning disabilities, their families and carers, and, ultimately, to deliver better healthcare. PHELD0 is a collaboration between PHE, the Centre for Disability Research at Lancaster University and the National Development Team for Inclusion. Since April 2013, the Observatory has been operated by PHE.

Public Health England, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG
Tel: 020 7654 8000 | www.gov.uk/phe | Twitter: [@PHE_uk](https://twitter.com/PHE_uk)
Facebook: www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland

Prepared by: Alison Giraud-Saunders and Anna Marriott

For queries relating to this document, please contact: anna.marriott@ndti.org.uk

© Crown copyright 2018

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0. To view this licence, visit [OGL](https://www.ogil.io) or email psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk. Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

Published June 2018

PHE publications

gateway number: 2018132

PHE supports the UN

Sustainable Development Goals



Acknowledgements

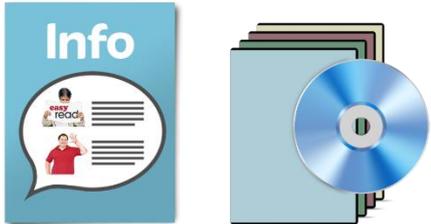
We would like to thank everyone who shared resources and contributed examples from practice to this report.

We would also like to thank Sue Dewhirst from the PHE Life Course team for commenting on an earlier draft of this report. Thanks as well to the H-team at Grapevine for their comments on the easy-read section. We appreciate the feedback.

Easy-read summary

 An illustration of a human brain on the left and a photograph of an elderly woman with short grey hair, wearing a blue top, looking thoughtful with her hand to her chin on the right.	<p>This report is about dementia. Dementia means changes that happen in our brains. It means our brains do not work as well as they did before.</p>
 Two photographs of an elderly man in a blue and white plaid shirt. The left photo shows him struggling to button his shirt. The right photo shows him holding his head in pain with both hands.	<p>Dementia makes it hard to remember things. It can be difficult to do ordinary things, like doing up buttons. Dementia can change how a person behaves. The person might become sad or confused or angry.</p>
 A photograph of an elderly woman with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a red cardigan and a floral patterned skirt, sitting in a blue armchair and knitting with pink yarn.	<p>These changes can happen as we get older.</p>

	<p>Some younger people get dementia too.</p>
	<p>People with learning disabilities are more likely to get dementia than other people.</p> <p>People with Down's syndrome may get dementia at a younger age.</p>
	<p>It is important to have a health check every year.</p> <p>This can pick up early signs of dementia.</p>

	<p>You can get a check-up if you are worried about changes that might be dementia.</p>
	<p>There are lots of ways to help people with dementia so they can live well.</p>
	<p>The law says public services should put 'reasonable adjustments' in place.</p> <p>This means services need to change so they are easier for people with learning disabilities to use.</p>
	<p>This report has examples of easy-read information and films. These can be used to help people with learning disabilities who may have dementia.</p>



This report has examples of how local services have put reasonable adjustments in place.

These can help people with learning disabilities to live well with dementia.

The pictures in this report are from A Picture of Health:

<http://www.apictureofhealth.southwest.nhs.uk/>

and Photosymbols: <https://www.photosymbols.com/>