

Yorkshire & Humber Dementia Action Alliance FAQ's

1. What is the Dementia Action Alliance

The Dementia Action Alliance is made up of organisations from the public, private and charitable sectors committed to transforming the quality of life of people living with dementia in the UK and the millions who care for them. Each of the organisations has produced an Action Plan to bring about improvements for anyone affected by dementia that they are directly or indirectly in contact with. The Regional Alliance for Yorkshire & Humber is part of a national initiative - www.dementiaaction.org.uk .

2. Why does it exist

Local Dementia Action Alliances are being developed so that any communities or organisations who want to improve the world around them for those affected by dementia can become part of a system of self help. Being part of an Alliance will facilitate information provision, training, mutual support and volunteer support between members. As the Dementia Action Alliance is a national scheme, there needs to be a way of those member organisations working within regional or smaller geographical areas to engage with people and communities to help them deliver their Action Plan. The Regional Dementia Action Alliance provides an opportunity to coordinate and record activity, problems, progress and improvements which are occurring more locally.

3. Who owns it

Alzheimer's Society is acting as organiser and facilitator but the local Dementia Action Alliance is owned by the individual members and representatives of participating organisations. It is self governing and decides for itself what is important and what it wants to do as this will vary across all locations depending on local circumstances.

4. What area does it cover

The aim is to have an Alliance whose members have a regional presence for Yorkshire & Humber. The Alliance will then provide support and direction for more local Alliances and forums across Yorkshire & Humber.

5. Who pays for it

Community engagement and the promotion of "action for dementia" is a priority of the Alzheimer's Society and therefore the Society would budget for this but at the same time look to other sources of funding from grants, member contribution, partnerships or sponsorship.

6. Why should I be interested in it

Every organisation has employees affected by dementia in some way and many organisations deal with people affected by dementia either because they provide specific services to them directly e.g. Hospital or GP surgery **or** the people affected by dementia use the services provided by the organisation e.g. Supermarket , Bank or Bus service.

Every community contains people affected by dementia whether that is a Residential Care Home, a village, A Mosque, A parish or Social club.

All of these groups and organisations can think about dementia and take steps to help those in the community affected by it. It will lead to formal recognition that they are a **“Dementia Friendly Community”**

7. Is there a Network in my local area

To find out where all of the Networks are located please contact Simon Wallace – simon.wallace@alzheimers.org.uk

8. Can anybody join

Yes, any regional group or organisation that feels they want to make a commitment to improving the lives of people with dementia is able to join.

9. What would I have to do if I joined it

You will produce an Action Plan as simple or as detailed as you wish. Alzheimer’s Society and other Alliance members would help you with this. You could update on this at Regional Dementia Action Alliance quarterly meetings.

10. Would I have to attend all meetings

No, it is envisaged that members will attend only those meetings where the content is of interest to them or that they wish to bring an issue or contribution to. Members can attend all meetings if they wish. You will also receive regular updates on the Alliance and also the National Dementia Action Alliance via E-Bulletins.

11. What difference can it make and how will the Dementia Action Alliance benefit the local community

The combination of grass roots membership and representation combined with a regional voice which will be heard at the heart of government is a very powerful force. Just as importantly, within your own community or organisation you can create improvements which help those affected by dementia that you encounter or engage with. Not all improvements have a cost, often it is just the identification of potential changes and having the will to see them through which can make all the difference.

12. How do I join the Alliance

To become a member, sign up to the National Dementia Declaration and submit a short Action Plan setting out how you are delivering the outcomes described in the Declaration. Any organisation that submits an Action Plan and commits to action will be considered for membership of the Alliance. National Alliance member organisations are encouraged to join the Yorkshire & Humber Alliance.

For further guidance on how to join the Network or to arrange a visit to discuss the opportunity to join and your suitability, **please contact Simon Wallace – simon.wallace@alzheimers.org.uk Phone: 07877 366187**