

HOT TOPICS – SEPTEMBER 2022

WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY (21ST SEPTEMBER)



WHAT IS ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE?

According to the Alzheimer's Society, "**Alzheimer's Disease** is the most common cause of **dementia**". [Source: [Alzheimer's disease | Alzheimer's Society \(alzheimers.org.uk\)](#)]

OKAY, SO WHAT IS DEMENTIA?

Dementia is an umbrella term for a range of progressive conditions that affect the brain.

Each type of dementia stops a person's brain cells (neurones) working properly in specific areas, affecting their ability to remember, think and speak.

Doctors typically use the word 'dementia' to describe **common symptoms** – such as memory loss, confusion, and problems with speech and understanding – that get worse over time.

Dementia can affect a person at any age but it's more common in people over the age of 65. There are over 200 subtypes of dementia. The most common are Alzheimer's disease, Vascular dementia, Lewy body dementia, Frontotemporal dementia and Mixed dementia.

By 2025, it's estimated that over one million people in the UK will have a diagnosis of dementia – and almost all of us will know someone living with the condition" [Source: [What is dementia? - Dementia UK](#)]

FIVE THINGS ABOUT DEMENTIA

Dementia is not just about memory loss

Dementia is not a normal part of ageing

Dementia is caused by diseases of the brain

People can still live well with dementia

Alzheimer's Society is there for anyone affected

Follow this link to read Dementia UK's leaflet about dementia: [DUKFS13_What_is_dementia_2021_online.pdf \(dementiauk.org\)](#)

To help you prepare for a discussion about this subject with your PDC, you should read about how the Metropolitan Police Service support people with

dementia who are at risk of going missing using the **Herbert Protocol** [Source: [Herbert Protocol for people with dementia at risk of going missing | Metropolitan Police](#)]

What is the Herbert Protocol?

The Herbert Protocol began in Norfolk and is named after George Herbert, a veteran of the Normandy landings in World War Two.

Mr Herbert, who had dementia, died in 2011 after going missing while looking for his childhood home. The protocol, which is already widely used throughout the UK, works by way of a form which can be given to police to save time in the event of a missing person's enquiry.

The form is completed in advance and generally kept in the person's home or with relatives. It holds personal details, a description, a recent photograph, languages spoken, as well as addresses, places of employment and other significant locations in someone's life [Source: [What is the Herbert Protocol? The scheme to help trace missing people with dementia | NationalWorld](#)]



As you discuss dementia with your PDC, bear in mind that World Alzheimer's Day takes place on 21 September and is part of World Alzheimer's Month. The

aim of the month is to raise awareness and challenge stigma surrounding Alzheimer's and dementia. Think about which of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010 may apply. Also, explore some of the situations where you may deal with someone that has dementia – for example as a missing person, somebody found wandering, or in distress. How will your knowledge and understanding of this disease affect the way you deal with those situations?

You can develop your understanding about Alzheimer's Disease by watching a short video (4 mins) accessed at this link: [What is Alzheimer's disease? - YouTube](#)

You can expand your knowledge and understanding of Alzheimer's disease and dementia by visiting the websites below:

[Alzheimer's Society \(alzheimers.org.uk\)](#)
[Specialist support to families facing dementia | Dementia UK](#)

