

*From the Office of David Flory CBE
Deputy NHS Chief Executive*



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Email

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To: All NHS and Foundation Trust Chief Executives and Directors of Finance

Dear Colleague

Dementia Friendly Environments Capital Investment and Pilot Scheme Initiative

The Secretary of State, Department of Health (Mr Jeremy Hunt) has announced a £50m capital funding in 2013-14 for the NHS and Local Authorities to work with providers to create care environments to help people with dementia live well with the condition.

Dementia is one of the biggest challenges we face as a society as our population ages and we are determined to transform the quality of dementia care for patients and their families. In March, the Prime Minister launched his challenge on dementia, which sets out the Government's ambition to increase diagnosis rates, raise awareness and understanding and to double funding for research by 2015.

Research by The King's Fund demonstrates that good design can help with the management of dementia. People with dementia are less likely to get confused or become distressed within an environment designed with their needs in mind. Examples include an intelligent use of colour to mark out different areas to aid memory, clearer signage and the opportunity to take part in meaningful activities.

Local authorities working in partnership with social care providers and the NHS will have the opportunity to bid for a share of £50m capital funding to invest in 2013-14 in improved care environments to help people with dementia and their carers manage their condition better. The funding is aimed at expanding the range of health and care services offering dedicated dementia friendly environments – and to stimulate further use of supportive environments to help the growing number of people with dementia get the best possible care.

Projects that are successful in securing funds will form part of a national pilot to disseminate best practice and evidence across the NHS and social care system of the best examples of 'dementia friendly environments'. The findings and evidence will be used to develop future guidance in this area, assisting organisations that provide services to people with dementia as well as commissioners of services and Local Health and Wellbeing Boards to become one of the best in Europe.

The criteria for applying for funding and the deadline for receipt of applications has now been published on the DH web site and can be accessed by following the link:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/11/dementia-environments-ei>

A high level timetable for the application process together with key contacts is attached at annex A

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Flory" followed by a period. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Flory
Deputy NHS Chief Executive

Annex A

Plan and Time Line Summary for NHS and Social Care National Pilots

25 October 2012

Announcement by Secretary of State of the initiative

End November/Early December 2012

Stage One "Expression of Interest" application for bidders issued on the DH website

By 16 January 2013 Deadline for Stage One "Expression of Interest" application to be submitted

By 31 January 2013

Stage Two "Committed to Proceed" application issued on DH website

By 28 February 2013

Stage one evaluation "Expressions of Interest" bids complete and announced

By 30 April 2013 Deadline for Stage Two applications to be submitted via email

By 14 June 2013

Stage Two evaluation 'detailed bids' complete and notification of successful applicants. Including release of full/staged capital allocation to enable pilot project to commence.

By 28 June 2013

SofS national pilot scheme launch

In July 2013

Evidence and information gathering commences

By 31 March 2014

National Pilot Schemes completed and providing dementia friendly care environments.

By September 2014

Department publishes evidence and findings from National Pilot Schemes

By 31 March 2015

Department publishes national best practice guidance on dementia friendly environments derived from the evidence and findings of the national pilot schemes.

Key Contacts

Regarding the criteria including NHS policy and technical estates elements;
Christopher Farrah, christopher.farrah@dh.gsi.gov.uk, Tel. 0113-254-5620

Regarding local authority and social care including Social Care policy
Jerry.bird@dh.gsi.gov.uk, Tel. 0113-254-6246

Regarding the financial and governance elements:

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