### Summary of the Sandwell Better Lives Dementia Strategy 2019 – 2025:

**9 promises for people in Sandwell**

<table>
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<th>Promise</th>
<th>Details</th>
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| **1. To Improve Awareness** | - Raising general awareness about dementia  
- Helping local organisations keep up to date to better support people  
- Helping patients make informed choices |

**Key outcome:** People with diagnosed or suspected dementia, (as well as those who support them) can access the right information at the right time, in the right place.

| **2. Bigger focus on prevention** | - Giving wider health and wellbeing advice at the right time  
- Supporting to remain independent  
- Working with other services to prevent crisis  
- Avoiding unnecessary admissions to hospital or long-term care |

**Key outcome:** People in Sandwell have the right to good physical health and mental health/wellbeing, to live fully and enjoy their independent lives for as long as they are able to do so.

| **3. Improve diagnosis and assessment for those at risk of dementia** | - Earlier identification of those at risk of or living with dementia, but are not yet known to us  
- Improving referral waiting times  
- Assessing for meaningful care  
- Emphasising the role of GPs in the coordination and continuity of care |

**Key outcome:** People living with dementia have a right to receive appropriate and timely diagnosis and receive co-ordinated support in the community, for themselves and their carers.

| **4. To help people with dementia live well in their community** | - Supporting from diagnosis to end of life with advance care planning  
- Tailored, person-centred support  
- Working with others to offer wider support networks  
- Option to apply for Personal Health Budget |

**Key outcome:** People living with/ supporting someone with dementia feel able to access and contribute to their community, and carry out their daily tasks to remain independent for as long as possible.

| **5. Better support for carers** | - Assessing carers for their needs  
- Raising awareness on the support and resources available to them  
- Helping them to support the person they care and cope with their responsibilities  
- Improving carer health/wellbeing  
- Prioritise respite opportunities |

**Key outcome:** People caring for someone living with dementia will feel informed and able to support their loved one, whilst able to maintain their own health and wellbeing.

| **6. To reduce the risk of crisis** | - Ensuring the right support is at hand to limit the risk of crises occurring  
- Ensuring that when a crisis occurs, high quality services are available to manage these situations  
- Reducing avoidable hospital admissions |

**Key outcome:** People living with dementia and those providing support to them, will receive support to reduce the risk of and to help manage crisis.

| **7. To improve long term care for people with dementia** | - Ensuring data on the quality of long term and residential care establishments, is up to date to help carers find appropriate care  
- Ensuring continuity of support  
- All local hospitals and care homes to meet Dementia Friendly criteria |

**Key outcome:** Those living with dementia who are in long term care have a right to live well and be able to access appropriate community support.

| **8. Improve “End of Life” care** | - Having early conversations so the person with dementia and carers can be fully involved in Advance Care Planning and End of Life care decisions  
- Providing compassionate palliative care with dignity  
- Bereavement support for carers |

**Key outcome:** People living with dementia and their families will have the opportunity to plan ahead, receive good end of life care and be able to die in accordance with their wishes.

| **9. Better knowledge and skills across the workforce** | - Ensuring the workforce and leadership is right, with the right capacity and skill mix  
- Agree local training standards across health, social care and community/ voluntary services  
- Upskilling local people/ carers |

**Key outcome:** Those working or living with people with dementia will receive the support, awareness and training needed, from knowledgeable and skilled professionals, with accredited refreshers available.