

Short-Time Respite for Family Carers Living with Dementia

6. Dementia Prevalence

Local Dementia Prevalence

Debenham GP Practice Registered Patients with dementia

2014: 70 2017: 63 2020: 70

In 2020 this represented 3.2% of over 65s

27 unpaid family care 16 social care @ home 17 residential care

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Debenham GP catchment area Estimated prevalence (30 - 35% undiagnosed)

2014: 70 – 100 2025: 90 - 120

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Shaftsbury Suffolk Dementia Support Current clients registered with :

Debenham GP 41 Mendlesham GP 39 Framlingham 30

Debenham Project Current carers Past Carers Participants Transport

2017: 34 36

2020: 41 39

2025: 21 23 17 42

UK Estimates Mild Moderate Severe

2025: 982K Total

50%

37%

13%

What might these numbers mean?

Of the total estimated number of individuals with dementia 25 – 30% will always be unknowable because their symptoms have not developed to the extent that they seriously impact on their, and their families, quality of life such that they may seek information and advice from health care, social care, or other support services. It may also be compounded by denial by the individual, or by the concern of their wife, husband, partner, family as betraying their loved one to an extended debilitating illness.

Almost all of those with severe symptoms, and a proportion of those with moderate symptoms, will be professionally cared for in a residential or nursing setting. Ultimately, in the dementia journey, a point is reached when it is no longer possible for the family carer to cope safely in their caring role (both for the person they are caring for and also for themselves).

The number of family carers actively supported by the Project increased over the early years to a rough average somewhere between 30 and 40. Together with those others, to whom we have provided information and advice and/or referred to other agencies, this suggests that we had managed to “reach” perhaps as much as 60% of the “knowable” number of families living with dementia in our area. However, following COVID, we have significantly not recovered to that level of penetration. There is no doubt that the prevalence of dementia has not changed.

Respite Support Proposal: The following projection is based on achieving an increased number of supported families and opening up the service to all our carers following the trial. It is just intended to give a feel for the potential need for ongoing funding.