

## DAA Recommendations

### 1. National strategy for older prisoners

- There is no national strategy for older prisoners. A strategy would be key in formulating a clear pathway for all prison governors to follow and to give a clear direction
- We call for the strategy to encompass older people, dementia and disability, especially cognitive impairments
- The strategy would lead on to supporting the other recommendations the DAA are making

### 2. Top tips booklet

- This booklet, or one page of top tips would be a quick and clear reference for prison officers
- Top tips could help identify need and refer a person to the appropriate healthcare they need
- It would include how to identify if a prisoner had a memory problem or other cognitive difficulties and what actions to take and to be incorporated into prison officer training
- The Alzheimer's Society prison project staff are working on introducing this into prisons

### 3. Importance of early diagnosis, pathway of care and joined up working

- It is important to see the person not the dementia
- When changes are noticed, this needs to be acted upon quickly and timely but accurate differential diagnosis should be received
- Diagnosis is followed up and the relevant professionals are involved at the appropriate times
- Diagnosis flags a need for joint working with health and social care professionals
- A consistent pathway of care needs to be established throughout the system (this links in with recommendation 1 – National Strategy)
- Work is needed in parallel with all areas including, Local Authorities, prison governors, head of healthcare

### 4. Training

- Training needs to be available to help staff identify when a prisoner is presenting symptoms of dementia or other forms of cognitive impairment. Awareness sessions for fellow prisoners is also needed
- There needs to be a greater emphasis on recognition and identification in the first instance and then a rolling training programme for 2-3 years to embed the practices with all staff

### 5. Data

- It would be useful for prisons to have a mechanism for gathering and sharing information to support a better understanding of dementia
- There is a need for prevalence data across prisons
- There is a study being undertaken by the University of Manchester, which would be beneficial for all prisons