

# Dementia Care Mapping

National Strategy & Implementation Guide – Summary  
2022



# Contents

Introduction	3
Background	3
The purpose of the implementation guide	4
How was the guide developed?	4
What is Dementia Care Mapping?	5
Implementation guide for Dementia Care Mapping	6
Stage One: Strategic Planning	7
Stage Two: Assessing local requirements	7
Stage Three: Building the case for change	7
Stage Four: Managing and monitoring the local system	8
4.2 Managing and monitoring the national system	8
References	9
Acknowledgements	9



# Introduction

The Dementia Care Mapping national strategy and implementation guide represents a commitment that all people living with dementia should experience care, which is person-centred, safe and supports their well-being when using care services in Wales. Dementia Care Mapping is an observational tool used to understand the experience of care from the perspective of people living with dementia and to inform positive actions to promote person-centred approaches.

## Background

The Dementia Care Mapping national strategy and implementation guide is aligned to the:

- *Dementia Action Plan for Wales 2018-2022* (Welsh Government, 2018), which includes the expanded use of Dementia Care Mapping as an established approach to achieve and embed person-centred care for people living with dementia.
- *All Wales Dementia Care Pathway of Standards* (Improvement Cymru and Welsh Government, 2021), which includes Dementia Care Mapping as one of twenty priority standards for the country:



*Organisations and care settings providing intensive dementia care (this includes mental health and learning disabilities inpatient settings) will provide the framework and structure for Dementia Care Mapping to become routine practice, supporting clinical reasoning and decision making. Mental health services will offer Dementia Care Mapping support to acute care, prisons and care homes settings.*

Dementia Care Mapping was initially developed at Bradford University through the work of Tom Kitwood and Kathleen Bredin in the early 1990's. The tool is used across the world to support the delivery of person-centred dementia care.

## The purpose of the implementation guide

The guide outlines the actions, which health boards across Wales will need to complete to support the achievement of the Dementia Care Mapping standard in the *All-Wales Dementia Care Pathway of Standards* (Improvement Cymru and Welsh Government, 2021).

Whilst some health boards will be further along in meeting the Dementia Care Mapping standard than others, the implementation guide should be used to support local assessment, planning and delivery.

The guidance is primarily aimed at health board commissioners, who should identify key stakeholders and resources to achieve the Dementia Care Mapping standard. The guidance also supports key stakeholders, including mappers within health boards, to understand their own roles within this process.

## How was the guide developed?

The guide was developed through a series of workshops and consultation exercises. Care staff from health boards, the private care sector and family members/carers of people living with dementia attended workshops delivered across health board localities in Wales to consider the local strategy for Dementia Care Mapping in that area.

Drafts of the strategy and implementation guide were shared through a consultation exercise with members of the Lleisiau Dementia Voices and Bangor University CABAN people living with dementia groups. The strategy and guide were also shaped by the feedback and suggestions of Dementia Care Mappers in Wales and the DCM leads from Welsh health boards.



# What is Dementia Care Mapping?

Dementia Care Mapping is rooted in the concept of person-centred care. The principal aim of person-centred care is to maintain the personhood of people living with dementia. Tom Kitwood defined personhood as:

*'A standing or status that is bestowed upon one human being, by others, in the context of relationships and social being. It implies, recognition, respect and trust'*

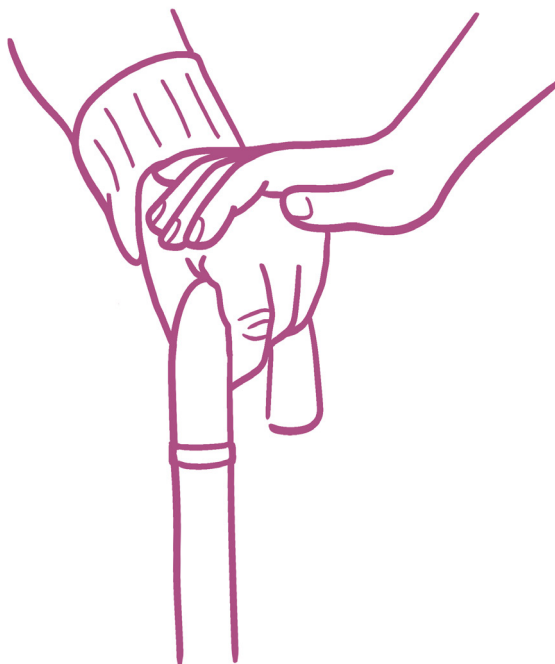
(Kitwood, 1997 p.8)

Dementia Care Mapping is an observational tool, which supports practitioners to record quality of life and care from the perspective of the person living with dementia. The aim is to appreciate the experience of living with dementia to understand how the current provision of care affects the person's quality of life and to promote person-centred approaches to care. It can be used for individual assessments and care planning, understanding the culture of care, staff development, audit and research.

A person's well-being is an indicator of their quality of life. Observations during Dementia Care Mapping are particularly concerned with the emotional and psychological well-being of people living with dementia. Well-being is usually reported by the person themselves but for people living with dementia this may be more difficult depending on the severity of their cognitive impairments. However, what people living with dementia have to say about their well-being should still be recognised and acted upon, with Dementia Care Mapping used to support this understanding.

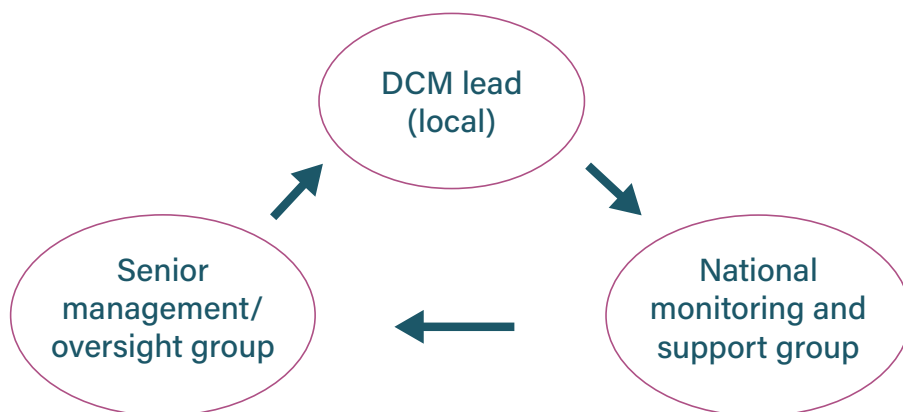
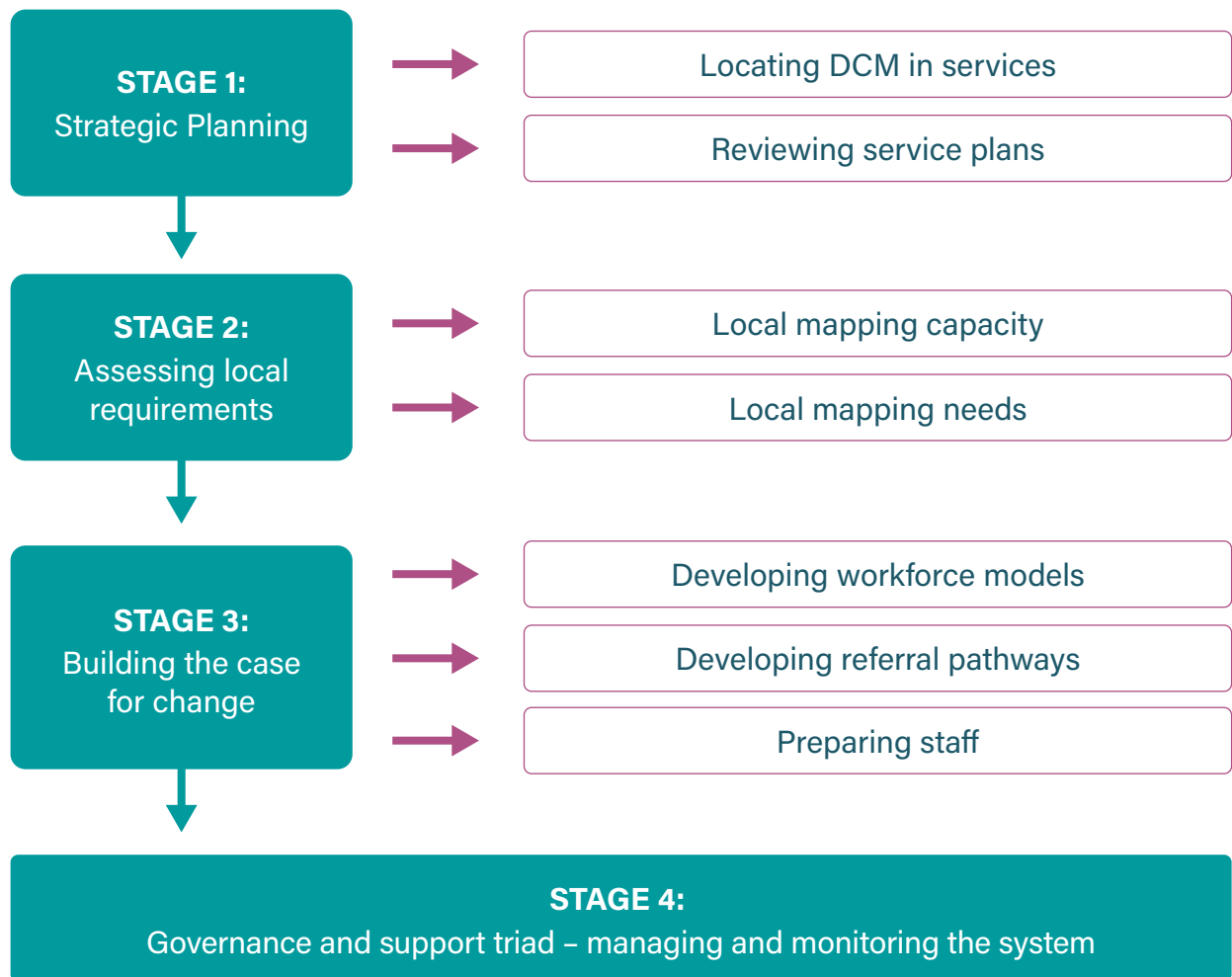
Tom Kitwood also described behaviours of caregivers, which upheld or undermined the personhood of people living with dementia. These behaviours are observed during mapping and provide valuable insights into how interactions between caregivers and the person living with dementia may affect well-being.

Mapping provides insights into the experiences of people living with dementia in care settings, which supports the development of an action plan. The care staff must develop and deliver the action plan in practice to enhance the provision of person-centred care approaches.



## Implementation guide for Dementia Care Mapping

The guide presents four stages for health boards to consider the current provision of Dementia Care Mapping within their locality, develop a service model and deliver change.





## Stage One: Strategic Planning

- A local strategic plan should be developed for Dementia Care Mapping in each health board in Wales.
- Service plans must recognise Dementia Care Mapping as an integral part of services for people living with dementia.
- New work plans and job descriptions must ensure that mappers have protected time to implement Dementia Care Mapping.
- Full time mappers must be supported to lead the Dementia Care Mapping provision within the service.

## Stage Two: Assessing local requirements

### **Health boards should:**

- Understand the current provision of Dementia Care Mapping locally.
- Identify current programmes of mapping, currently undertaken within the health board. This assessment should also include other tools currently used in the health board to promote person-centred care.
- Estimate the overall incidence of people living with dementia referred to inpatient services.
- Understand the local provision of inpatient care for people living with dementia across the health board.

## Stage Three: Building the case for change

### **Health boards should:**

- Apply their understanding of local need to inform the development of a Dementia Care Mapping workforce model.
- Develop a referral pathway for Dementia Care Mapping within the health board.
- Ensure that all services linked to the health board's provision of care for people living with dementia can request input from the Dementia Care Mapping service.
- Promote further research into the application and development of Dementia Care Mapping.
- Include the frameworks underpinning Dementia Care Mapping in dementia education programmes for health board staff.
- Raise public awareness regarding the use of Dementia Care Mapping in the health board.

## Stage Four (Part 1): Managing and monitoring the local system

The Dementia Care Mapping lead(s) should:	The health board should:	Care environments should:
Oversee all Dementia Care Mapping activity within the health board	Ensure that all mappers are provided with protected time to engage with locally held supervision.	Take full responsibility for the development and delivery of action plans during the Dementia Care Mapping process.
Collect all mapping data conducted within the health board.		
Report Dementia Care Mapping results to the senior management team.		Ensure that all stakeholders have access to action plans and confidential feedback.
Report progress to the national steering group.		
Support less experienced mappers.		

## Stage Four (Part 2): Managing and monitoring the national system

National organisations (including Improvement Cymru and NHS Wales) should develop a national Dementia Care Mapping monitoring and support group. This group should include stakeholders from health boards (including Dementia Care Mapping leads) and people living with dementia and their families and carers.

### The national group should:

- Collate the data shared by health boards and compare this to the health board's objectives on an annual basis.
- Create a mechanism for networking at a national level for Dementia Care Mapping leads.
- Arrange an annual conference for Dementia Care Mapping mappers and stakeholders to share good practice, research activity and support.



## References

Improvement Cymru and Welsh Government (2021) All Wales Dementia Care Pathway of Standards. Improvement Cymru and Welsh Government

Kitwood, T. (1997). *Dementia Reconsidered: The Person Comes First*. Buckingham [England], Open University Press.

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