

# Dementia and people with learning disabilities – A North West Perspective

**Sue Smith**

**Health Self Assessment Lead  
NWJIP**

# Health Self Assessment

## Target 2 Access to services

- Surveyed uptake screening
- Development accessible screening information and pathways
- Sharing best practice

## Target 4 VPN targets

- Keeping people from readmissions to hospital- via liaison nurse and pathways
- Supporting people with dementia- both older people and early onset

# North West Demographics

- Covers 24 PCT and 23 LA, 3 Cancer Networks
- Lancashire and Cumbria
- Cheshire and Merseyside
- Greater Manchester
- Large numbers of supported living services
- Aging population of carers

# Dementia Screening

## Proactive

- All people with DS over 40( some start at 25)
- Ongoing review
- Able to identify changes sooner

## Reactive

- Only on referral
- Relies on carers recognising something is wrong
- Deterioration has already begun
- Carers often failing to cope

# Positives

- Pathways in place to follow
- Advice and support available
- Memory clinic and medication
- Training to person, carers and other people they live with
- Support with end of life issues

# Issues

- Not all services access memory clinic
- Not all services have dementia pathways
- Not all services offer training/advice to carers
- Not all areas had managed to ensure reference to people with learning disabilities in dementia strategy

# Next Steps

- Determine numbers
- Ensure inclusion in dementia strategy
- Consolidate training
- Research

# Thank you

## Any Questions



[susan.smith@northwestjip.nhs.uk](mailto:susan.smith@northwestjip.nhs.uk)



north west  
joint improvement  
partnership  
social care, health and well being