

Dementia-friendly technology (DFT)

A charter that helps every person with dementia benefit from technology that meets their needs

Background to the charter

In November 2013, Alzheimer's Society, the UK's leading support and research charity, set up a dementia friendly technology task and finish group, involving over 33 organisations and many more individuals from health, housing, social care, providers, voluntary sector and people living with dementia.

With one in three people over the age of 65 set to develop dementia, the group wanted to develop a charter to help every person with dementia benefit from technology. This important piece of work was launched in June 2014.

The overall aims of the charter?

- To help every person with dementia have the opportunity to benefit from technology appropriate to their needs.
- To outline and encourage the implementation of high-level principles and best practice for organisations that provide services to people with dementia

Why read the charter?

You will learn about:

- What people have told us about living with dementia and their thoughts on how technology could help
- How technology services can support people living with dementia and their family and friends, before diagnosis, after diagnosis, during a crisis and when there are other complex needs
- A range of case studies and best practice, demonstrating how technology is making a real difference to people's lives
- What a good quality technology service should look like. Issues to consider including ethics and consent and the re-evaluation of needs and outcomes
- A set of key questions devised to be asked by commissioners, assessment teams and people with dementia and their carers prior to buying technology
- Links to other sources for further advice and support

Why technology?

Whilst not a solution for everyone, technology solutions can work in a variety of ways to support health, manage risks, provide enjoyable and stimulating activities and support loved ones. Technology offers huge potential benefits for people with dementia, whether it's a familiar gadget such as a mobile phone and TV or a specific telecare device to remind someone to take medication. Given the wealth of technological solutions available, it is useful to break these thematically down across three domains aimed at supporting, managing and improving people's lives.

| Safety | Health | Enhancing |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enabling people with dementia to live as fully as possible without putting themselves and others at risk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting people to manage, assess and treat co-morbidities and improve health outcomes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • devices or apps to improve the quality of life for people with dementia |

Who is the charter for?

- People living with dementia and their family and friends.
- Commissioners of services for people with dementia.
- Providers of technology and services.
- Health, housing and social care professionals.

What do we want to achieve in the first year following the launch of the charter?

- The charter to be published and communicated across all relevant channels.
- Work towards having all clinical commissioning groups, local authority and housing commissioners, including the integration pioneers, to sign up to the charter.
- All service and technology providers to sign up to the charter.

What does signing up to the charter mean for my organisation?

Recommendations for commissioners, providers and suppliers

The statutory right to a social care assessment should always include a consideration for dementia-friendly technology.

A single, simple to use and regularly updated online resource detailing dementia-friendly technology should be developed.

All commissioners and providers should develop accessible and easy to find information that lists where dementia-friendly technology is available in their local area. This information should reference and include a link to this charter.

Technology providers should take into account the specific needs of people with dementia when developing care services that use technology.

You can find the full Dementia-friendly technology charter with the list of key questions to ask at www.alzheimers.org.uk/technologycharter

Executive summary by Ali Rogan, Chair of task and finish group and External Affairs Director at Tunstall Healthcare, on behalf of the dementia friendly technology task and finish group.

Alison.rogan@tunstall.com