Putting compassionate care at the centre

Level 2 Award in Understanding Dementia
Dementia affects people on a global scale and the stigma can result in a lack of care and support for dementia sufferers and delayed diagnosis.

Tackling the stigma surrounding dementia is becoming a priority focus for public health.

Raising awareness of dementia is an essential step in tackling the disease.

Dementia affects one in 14 people over the age of 65 and one in 6 over the age of 80.

With an estimated 44 million people worldwide living with dementia it is important that support systems are available for those affected.

Alzheimer’s Society and the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) have joined forces to create a new qualification to help people understand more about dementia.

The Level 2 Award in Understanding Dementia has been developed to raise standards in dementia care using a person centred approach to put compassionate care at the heart of the training.

"We believe there is a compelling need for training that puts people with dementia and their families first. Good quality care should address the complex needs of people with dementia ensuring individuals are treated with respect and dignity."

Kathryn Smith, Director of Operations, Alzheimer’s Society
Why ‘understanding dementia?’

The word Dementia describes a set of symptoms that may include memory loss and difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or language.

Dementia occurs when the brain is damaged by disease, such as Alzheimer’s disease or a series of strokes.

Care professionals want to provide the best care possible, but sometimes lack the knowledge or skills to understand dementia and care for someone with the condition. **Eighty per cent of people in care homes have dementia or memory problems**, so there is a real need for a recognised standard for people working directly in dementia care.

This qualification provides a benchmark and will contribute to improving standards in professional care.

Who is it for?

The qualification is designed for anyone caring for people with dementia and those who work in the health and social care sector.

It is also open to anyone who has an interest in broadening their knowledge about dementia including the many people who have signed up to Dementia Friends, the widely publicised Department of Health initiative.

A better understanding of dementia is going to make a real difference to the care these people offer.
Upon successful completion of the qualification a person caring for someone with dementia will be able to:

- **Comprehend** how the experience and progression of dementia is unique to the person, by identifying the different types of dementia and their associated risk factors.

- **Identify** the functions of the different areas of the brain and state how damage caused to brain function can affect a person’s experience of dementia and everyday living.

- **Understand** how a person with dementia can live well within society and identify how society can have a positive influence on people living with dementia.

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If you want to find out how you can play your part please contact us by email: dementia@rsph.org.uk
dementiatraining@alzheimers.org.uk

Or alternatively visit our websites:
www.rsph.org.uk/understandingdementia
www.alzheimers.org.uk/training

“This qualification has the potential to be the nationally recognised standard and an essential requirement for those working in adult health and social care.”

*Shirley Cramer CBE, Chief Executive, RSPH*
The Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) is an independent, multi-disciplinary charity organisation, dedicated to the improvement of the public’s health and wellbeing.

RSPH provides a wide range of vocationally related qualifications that are directly relevant to the workplace and national health priorities.

Alzheimer’s Society is the leading dementia charity, which works to improve the quality of life of people affected by dementia in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.