

**9 October 2018****Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****DEMENTIA IN HOSPITAL****Purpose of the Report**

1. To introduce a presentation on improving care for people with dementia, their families and carers at Nottingham University Hospital (NUH).

**Information**

2. Dementia is not a specific disease, but rather a term that refers to symptoms of mental and communicative impairment found in a variety of brain conditions and diseases, including Alzheimer's.
3. The percentage of elderly suffering from some form of dementia increases with age, with 2% of those aged 65-69, 5% of those aged 75-79, and over 20% of those aged 85-90 experiencing symptoms. One third of those 90+ have moderate to severe dementia.
4. Dementia can be caused by a variety of illnesses, some potentially very treatable (e.g., nutritional deficiency), others—like Alzheimer's— are not. Age is not the cause of dementia, but rather correlated with it. Memory loss is the earliest and most common sign. Irritability, depression, and other personality changes are also common. In more severe or worsening cases, language difficulties may occur, and spatial understanding deteriorates.
5. Delirium can be caused by fever, infection, medications, oxygen deprivation, sensory impairment, drug or alcohol abuse or withdrawal, body chemical disturbances, poor nutrition, dehydration and poisoning. It is a temporary and reversible and full recovery is common.
6. Katie Moore, Head of Patient Public Involvement at NUH will attend the Health Scrutiny Committee to brief Members on this issue and answer questions as necessary.
7. The presentation from NUH is attached as an appendix to this report.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Health Scrutiny Committee:

- 1) Considers and comments on the information provided.

2) Schedules further consideration as necessary.

**Councillor Keith Girling**  
**Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Martin Gately – 0115 977 2826**

**Background Papers**

Nil

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All