

Focus on Dementia: Post-diagnostic Support (PDS) and Care Co-ordination

Progress update January–June 2026

Improvement programme

The programme aims to ensure people with dementia will have improved experience of, and access to, person-led post-diagnostic support and care co-ordination, which meets their individual needs.

The programme uses the [PDS Quality Improvement Framework](#) (QIF) to support self-evaluation and improvement planning with participating teams.

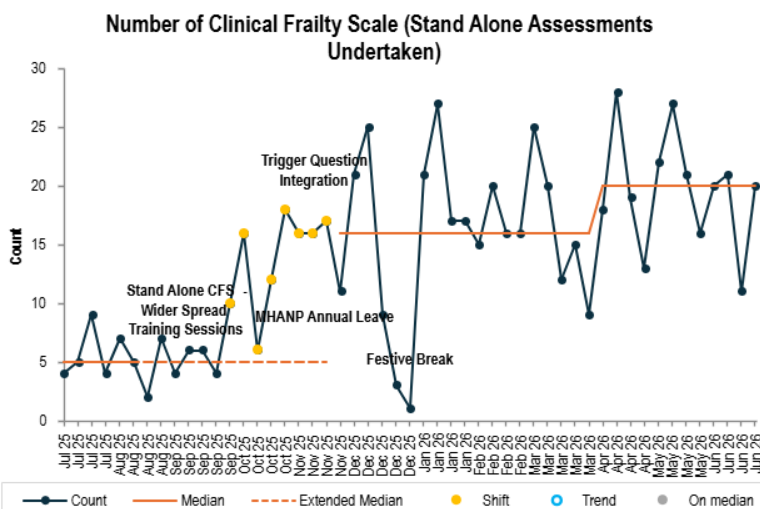
By learning and improving together we aim to reduce unwarranted variation and improve the quality of PDS and care co-ordination.

What we do

- Working with 20 health and social care partnerships (HSCPs) across Scotland, split across three cohorts. Providing learning sessions, monthly coaching calls, project surgeries and networking.
- Delivering a core 6 months of improvement support for each cohort, followed by 6 months of 'light touch' support with coaching calls every 2 months.
- Capturing evidence and learning to enable spread.

Examples of impact from individual teams

- **Waiting times:** 65% reduction in waiting times from diagnosis to first contact.
- **Service evaluation:** All service users are offered the opportunity to feedback on their PDS using a new evaluation process.
- **Networking:** Participating teams have connected with each other around young onset dementia, frailty assessment and PDS group work.
- **Frailty assessment:** Completion of frailty assessments has tripled, now approximately 17 each week are being carried out (see graph).



Driving change...

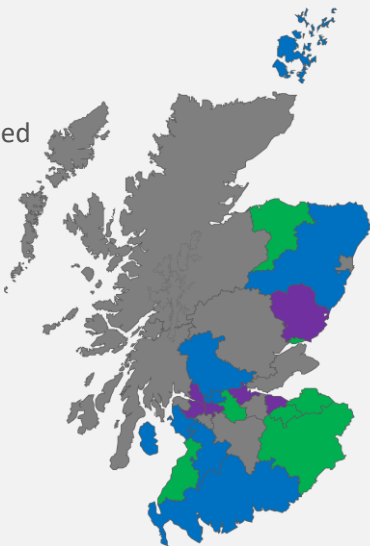
20 HSCPs participating in the programme



Cohort 1 (blue): 8 teams completed their 12-month improvement cycle and are continuing to make improvements.

Cohort 2 (green): 7 teams started their improvement journey in October 2025 and now on bi-monthly coaching calls.

Cohort 3 (purple): 5 teams started their improvement journey in May 2026.



Recently completed milestones

- Cohort 2 held its final learning session on 8 April. Teams shared their progress from the initial 6-month improvement support phase.
- Cohort 3 – 5 HSCP teams began their initial 6-month improvement journey with learning session 1 on 22 April.
- Cohort 3 teams completed their service self-assessment in May using the Quality Improvement Framework.
- Gathered feedback from cohort 1 (12-month follow-up) and cohort 2 (6-month follow-up).
- Monthly coaching calls are taking place with cohort 3 teams and planning site visits.

Using quality improvement



Understanding Systems

- Teams initially go through the process of understanding their system and identifying and testing change ideas using QI tools and methodology.
- Teams use a range of tools including process mapping, driver diagrams and PDSAs (plan, do, study, act).

Aim statement

One cohort 1 team reported all individuals accessing PDS receive a clearly documented personalised plan that reflects their needs preferences and priorities, and that this plan is reviewed and updated in line with Essential 5 components of PDS.

100%

Themes for improvement

Participating teams across the 3 cohorts reported the following themes for improvement:



- Personal Planning
- PDS Support Planning
- Young Onset Dementia services
- PDS pathway for learning disability
- Groupwork
- Information sharing/systems
- Waiting lists
- Frailty
- Service user feedback

Next steps



- Continue to offer improvement support to all participating teams.
- Visit cohort 3 teams.
- Present a poster to Alzheimer Europe (October) on the implementation of the PDS QIF.
- Develop and publish a final report reflecting on the programme's impact (December 2026).