

# Dementia Screening for Adults with Down's Syndrome in Wolverhampton

Lynda Sprague  
Community Nurse  
44 Pond Lane  
Wolverhampton  
WV2 1HG

Tel : 01902 572572

Email [Lynda.sprague@bcpft.nhs.uk](mailto:Lynda.sprague@bcpft.nhs.uk)

# Process

Initially began as a commissioned project

‘Raising awareness’ sessions with Service users and Carers

Information to GP’s, in Carer newsletters, Partnership Board, Services

# Identification

Attempts to Identify all people with Down's Syndrome living in Wolverhampton

Information from:

GP practices

Local Authority and private care establishments

Day Centres

Social workers

Service users and Carers referred directly

Continues to be updated using GP annual health checks

# Screening

Adults aged 30 and above invited for screening

97% accepted offer of screening

Broad Screen Checklist of observed changes (BSCOC) used as an initial baseline screening questionnaire

Questionnaire completed by Community Nurse with service user and carer

# Screening Questionnaire

Informant based measure of general functioning and abilities

Six domains:

Health

Physical Competencies

Sensory Integration

Perceptual / Cognitive

Social Emotional

Activities of Daily living

# Outcomes

Two possible outcomes identified – No changes noted / Changes noted

**No changes**

Written information left with service users and carers  
To be invited for rescreening

**Changes noted**

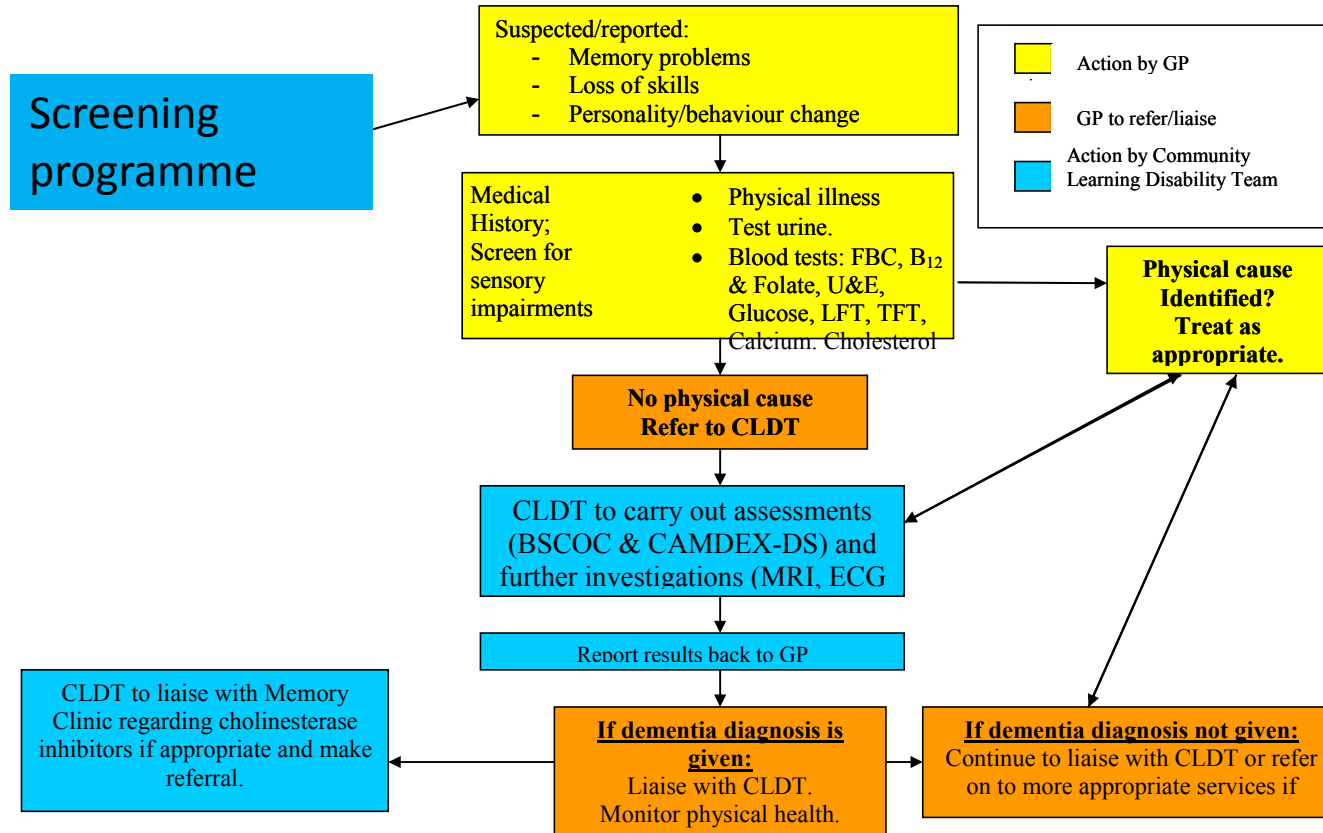
Is there a possible differential diagnosis?  
Assessments undertaken by wider MDT team / Primary care  
Commence pathway

## Care Pathway and LD Memory Clinic

Andrew Griffiths  
Locum Consultant Psychiatrist  
Wolverhampton Learning Disability Service,  
44, Pond Lane, WV2 1HG  
01902 572572  
[andrew.griffiths@wolvespct.nhs.uk](mailto:andrew.griffiths@wolvespct.nhs.uk)

# Care Pathway

## DEMENTIA REFERRAL GUIDELINES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING A DISABILITY





## How the care pathway works

- Referrals received by LD service
- Initial assessment is usually by LD nurse to complete Health Check and dementia screen (BSCOC)
- LD psychiatrist ensures blood tests etc. have been completed and arranges review (either at OPD or home)
- If a diagnosis of dementia is made and treatment is to be considered, a referral to the LD memory clinic is made.

## What happens at the clinic?

### Protocol for LD memory clinic

- Prior to appointment, need to ensure:
  - List of current medication
  - Allergies
  - Physical co morbidities, especially epilepsy
  - Serial BSCOC
  - DSQIID (baseline)
  - Bloods (FBC, B12 and folate, U and E, LFT, Calcium, **TFT**, blood sugar
  - ECG
  - MRI
  - EEG (if indicated)
- **Diagnosis of dementia should have already been made.**  
**Confirm diagnosis and assess suitability for treatment with Acetyl cholinesterase inhibitors.**

## Protocol for LD Memory Clinic

- If to commence treatment and if to commence Donepezil, prescribe 5mg on alternate days for 2 weeks. Increased to 5mg daily until next review. Use accessible information as per RCPsych.
- For all medication, start at low dose (usually below BNF recommended starting dose) and slowly increase.
- Review in memory clinic after 4 weeks.
- Increase to 10mg as necessary (if using donepezil).
- Repeat DSQIID at 2 months, then yearly. It can be repeated sooner if thought to be helpful. DSQIID used to monitor response to treatment along with clinical interview and carers views.
- Aim to review in clinic 6 monthly once stable and follow shared care pathway with GP.

- Patients attending clinic have access to generic support services eg Alz's café
- Consultants, LD and/or Older Adult
- Memory Clinic Senior Sister and/or CLDT nurse
- Others (mainly students)
- Rolling agenda – discuss people screened, new referrals and plan future developments and publications.