



## Freedom of Information Request FOI 24 30

### Dementia and fire risk

#### Query:

I'm a researcher exploring fire risk for people living with dementia and any initiatives in place to reduce risk for this group.

I wondered if you could share with me the number of fire incidents you attended which involved people living with dementia in the last reporting year?

Do you have any strategies or policies in place regarding people living with dementia?

#### Response:

**As a Service, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue (DWFRS) do not actively record if dementia is a factor in an incident; therefore we are not able to answer this part of your request.**

**Please see the following in response to your query relating to DWFRS's policy regarding people living with dementia:**

**Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service offers Safe & Well Visits to people that are at a higher risk of fire. We have eligibility criteria which needs to be met to receive a Safe & Well Visit. This includes health concerns as seen in the screenshot below.**

The screenshot shows a form with three questions, each followed by a dropdown menu:

- Are there any children under the age of 5 living in the property? \*
- Does anyone living in the property have health issues (sight/hearing loss, mobility, memory loss etc) \*
- Is there only 1 adult living in the property? \*

**The National Fire Chiefs Council instructs all FRS to follow a Person-Centred approach when delivering a Safe & Well visit. Some characteristics and circumstances have varying and increasing fire risk based on changing factors which can be categorised as follows:**

- **Person factors** - are integral to the person or people living in the property, things that are temporarily or permanently a part of them and cannot be changed such as their level of mobility, frailty, social isolation, physical and mental health.
- **Behaviour factors** - are actions, activities, or behaviours - things that people do (or don't do) such as smoking a cigarette or taking medication, cooking, and substance abuse.
- **Home factors** - are those factors which are integral to the home itself or its contents (physical environment). Or how the person interacts with others (social environment) such as the layout of the property and other people



that occupy the property. Including cold homes, smoke detection, hoarding and clutter, slips, trips, and falls.

Because of these factors, we work closely with partner organisations such as Adult Social Services, Ambulance and GP Surgeries. These partners refer people to us if they identify a fire risk or concern. We also signpost to other agencies if the occupier needs additional support. This could be AGE UK, Trading Standards, Adult Social Care for example.

During a S&W Visit we collect information about the occupier and their home environment. One question is about Health Concerns, which includes Dementia/Memory impairment. See screenshot below.

in the last 3 years?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Do not know	<input type="checkbox"/> Not disclosed
Is there anyone living in the home with a disability?				
If 'yes' please select from the following:	<input type="checkbox"/> Hearing impairment	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual impairment		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Dementia / memory impairment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental ill health		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical ill health	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobility		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other			
Is there anyone living in the home who is pregnant, or do they have children under 5?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not disclosed	

In 2017, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) received funding to work on a project with Bournemouth University Dementia Institute. The aim was threefold, to:

- develop knowledge that can be used nationally and internationally to help people affected by memory problems or dementia to be safer in their homes.
- enhance the quality of life of people affected by dementia by enabling them to live independently in their own homes for longer.
- create a training package that will ensure Fire and Rescue staff and volunteers, and other practitioners who visit people in their own homes, are better equipped to work with people affected by dementia to ensure they are as safe as possible from fire risk. DWFRS commissioned Bournemouth University Dementia Institute (BUDI) to evaluate the progress, outputs, and outcomes of this project. In this report we detail the data sources used to evaluate this project, the approach used to analyse this data, and the key findings and recommendations that were drawn from this evaluation.

DWFRS was the first Fire Service in the UK to create a bespoke Dementia Awareness video for operational firefighters. We worked alongside SCIE (Social Care Institute of Excellence) to create the content for the video. The Australian Dementia Service were also involved. The Dementia Awareness Session is still in use by DWFRS and all staff have access to it.

Information/Detail accurate on the date provided: 06, March 2024