

DCP'S TRACK RECORD

- 1989-1992 A local social work team (based in Blakelaw, outer west Newcastle) in partnership with the health authority, recognised the lack of locally based services leading to hospital and residential home admissions. This led to the setting up of a steering group to consult with carers which resulting in the formation of a carers support group in Blakelaw. Many of the key issues identified even then were related to client carer involvement and empowerment, the need for socially inclusive services, tackling stigma, improving access, promoting independence, offering emotional support.
- 1992-1995 The West End Care Management Pilot Project was set up as a joint initiative between Health and Social Services to test out the feasibility of supporting people with dementia in their own homes. The Mental Illness specific Grant of £30,000 per year over two years was granted.
The carers of the Blakelaw Carers support Group were invited to act as consultants/advisors and to assist in steering the pilot project.
The project set out to develop services to meet the unmet needs identified by carers in the first carers support group. These were:- Flexible home care service; available 24 hours, 7 days a week; Independent Supported Living Houses; Day Activity Centres; Short Break services; 24 hour companion/befriender scheme; Specialist services for younger people with dementia and people from the black and minority ethnic communities; Carer support groups.
- 1992 Services For Older People: A flexible home support service was set up to enable people with dementia to remain in their own homes and offer support to their carers.
- 1993 The dissatisfaction experienced by some of the carers when services were provided and the realisation that earlier practice models in Blakelaw enabled people with dementia to be supported successfully in their own homes led to the thinking of setting up a local charity.
Dementia Care Initiative, an initiative by carers of people with dementia, was launched as part of the pilot project with the twelve carers of the carer support group becoming the board of trustees.
The very first independent supported living house for people with dementia was set up in Benwell in partnership with the local authority housing department, offering five tenancies for people with dementia who were recommended for residential care.
- 1994 The pilot project showed clear evidence in successfully supporting people with severe dementia in their own homes who were recommended for ESMI care (Elderly Severely Mentally ill) and was awarded £120,000 from the Primary and Community Care Development Fund. This was granted for a new pilot project to support 10 people with severe dementia at anyone time who would otherwise be entering NHS continuing care or nursing care for the elderly severely mentally ill. This funding is ongoing
DCI was registered with the Charity Commission.
- 1995 The second supported housing offering further five tenancies was set up, also in the west end.
At the request from carers of older people suffering from depression, DCI set up a local day club under the name of Neighbourhood Care Initiative (NCI) for older people with other mental health problems.
Developed and expanded home support service in North Tyneside. Set up intensive domiciliary care service for small number of clients.
- 1996 Established partnership with Newcastle and Whitley Housing Trust.
- 1997 Developed a specialist service for people with functional mental illness in partnership with Newcastle City Health Trust.
Set up a four-tenancy bungalow for older people with dementia in the outer West Newcastle.

- 1998 Set up four tenancy supported housing for older people in the East End of the city.
Set up a four tenancy supported house for people with early onset dementia. £40,000 funding was awarded by Northern rock foundation to develop specialist supported housing, day services and respite service for people with early onset dementia and older people with mental health problems, including people from the black and minority ethnic communities.
- 1999 Developed and expanded home support service in North Tyneside
DCP came runner up in the prestigious Sir Griffiths award for pioneering independent supported living houses, emphasising user involvement, independent living and social inclusion.
DCP was awarded £200,000 by Zurich financial Services for a new build project to develop the above services .
- 2000 Close working partnership with social services was established and their assistance was sought in acquiring a two acre Brunswick Beech School site, in the North of Newcastle.
- 2001 A five tenancy supported house for people with severe dementia was established in Fenham. DCP received joint funding for this service from both health and social services.
DCP changed its name to Dementia Care Partnership to reflect the important role provided by partners and funders in its success and achievements.
- 2002 Set up Planning and Development group to develop supported houses for people with early onset dementia and older people with dementia at the rear of the Brunswick Beech school site in Darrel Street, Brunswick village.
- DCP's strategy review revealed the dependency on statutory funding for our survival and the need to move away from this by seeking options to generate our own income whilst working to the charity objectives and ensure our longer term sustainability.
- 2003-2003 DCP proposed to purchase the front half of the Brunswick Beech school site to develop a purpose built day services, incorporating gym, play group, hairdressing, restaurant and coffee shop facility, respite/short break service, relocation of DCP head office with training and conference facility and a sensory garden.
- 2004-2005 The Brunswick Beech Centre goes on site with the view for completion in August 2005
- Summary:
DCP has expanded from serving a handful of people to serving over 500 people per week; from one member of staff to 210 admin, management and support staff; from an annual turnover of £30,000 to per annum in 1992 to a projected turnover of £5m per annum in 2005.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

- 1996 Invitation to join NHS Executive working group to produce a Handbook on the 'Mental Health of Older People' (DOH 1997).
- 1997 'Home Solutions' Report sponsored by Dementia Services Development Centre and Housing Advice Charitable Trust (1997). DCI supported housing was chosen as a good practice case study.
- 1997 Svanberg et al (1997) The process of care management with people with dementia. Health and Social Care in the Community 5,2,134-139.
- 1998 Visit to DCI services by members from the Royal Commission on the long term care of the elderly. Kings Fund prepared two reports on our behalf for submission. One on intensive domiciliary care and another on supported housing.
Svanberg et al (1998) An Ordinary House in an Ordinary Street. Journal of Dementia Care Sept/Oct1998

Svanberg R (1998) Rising to the challenge of radical change. Journal of Dementia Care Nov/Dec 1998

1999 Svanberg et al (1999) Popular solution that can offer 'best value'. Journal of Dementia Care Jan/Feb 1999

Visit to DCI services by Dr Judy Renshaw, Audit Commission, reviewing mental health services. Conference presentation/workshop, Dementia Care '99, Glasgow.

DCI received the runner up Sir Roy Griffith's award from Frank Dobson in London following a presentation at the House of Lords.

DCI was awarded £200,000 towards developing specialist supported housing day services and short-break service for people with early onset dementia including people from the ethnic minority communities.

2002 DCP received the Investors in People award.

2004 Rani Svanberg awarded the voluntary sector 'Entrepreneur of the Year Award' by Community Foundation and sponsored by Ward Hadaway.

Presented with 'Fastest 50 Certificate', for being one of the North East's fastest 50 growing companies, awarded by Ward Hadaway and The Journal.

DCP regularly receives visitors from national and international organisations who wish to learn from DCP's model of practice.