

Annual Dementia Appointment for General Practice teams

Alzheimer's Society Innovation Team are proposing to develop an 'Annual Dementia Appointment for General Practice teams'

During the [Uniting with General Practices Project](#), we have spoken with 115 people about their experiences and knowledge of General Practices supporting people affected by dementia. Based on what we have learnt, we invited those involved to help develop solutions to meet the identified challenge:

'How we can help General Practice to better support people affected by dementia and identify pathways to further support?'

We heard the following from GP's:

'I don't have the knowledge to signpost or refer my patients to local dementia support services. I know giving a patient who is in their 80's, the website address of a supporting organisation may not be helpful to them, but I don't know what else is available and don't have time to find out.'

'When you are training GPs and General Practice staff, lectures don't work...you need to do something to help staff to get into the shoes of people living with dementia and their families.'

'Many other GPs need to be taught how to present information about a diagnosis... they need to be taught how to "walk with" the person with dementia.'

We hope that the 'Annual Dementia Appointment for General Practice teams' could help General Practices with some of the challenges they are facing when supporting people affected by dementia.

Here we will share with you our plan for the contents of the Annual Dementia Appointment for General Practice teams, which includes suggestions from GP's, other related health professionals, stakeholders and people affected by dementia. General Practice could complete the Annual Dementia Appointment on an annual basis, as a refresh of dementia knowledge.

Please help us by completing a short survey after viewing the Annual Dementia Appointment, this should take approximately 10-15 minutes.

Your honest feedback will help determine if the Annual Dementia Appointment would be useful and what the impact could be on General Practice and people affected by dementia.

Feedback from GP's and people affected by dementia highlighted the following as contents for the Annual Dementia Appointment

Contacts to local Alzheimer's Society services

Information about assistance for carers

Relationship and continuity with local Alzheimer's Society contact

Current best practice

Greater awareness of dementia and the impact

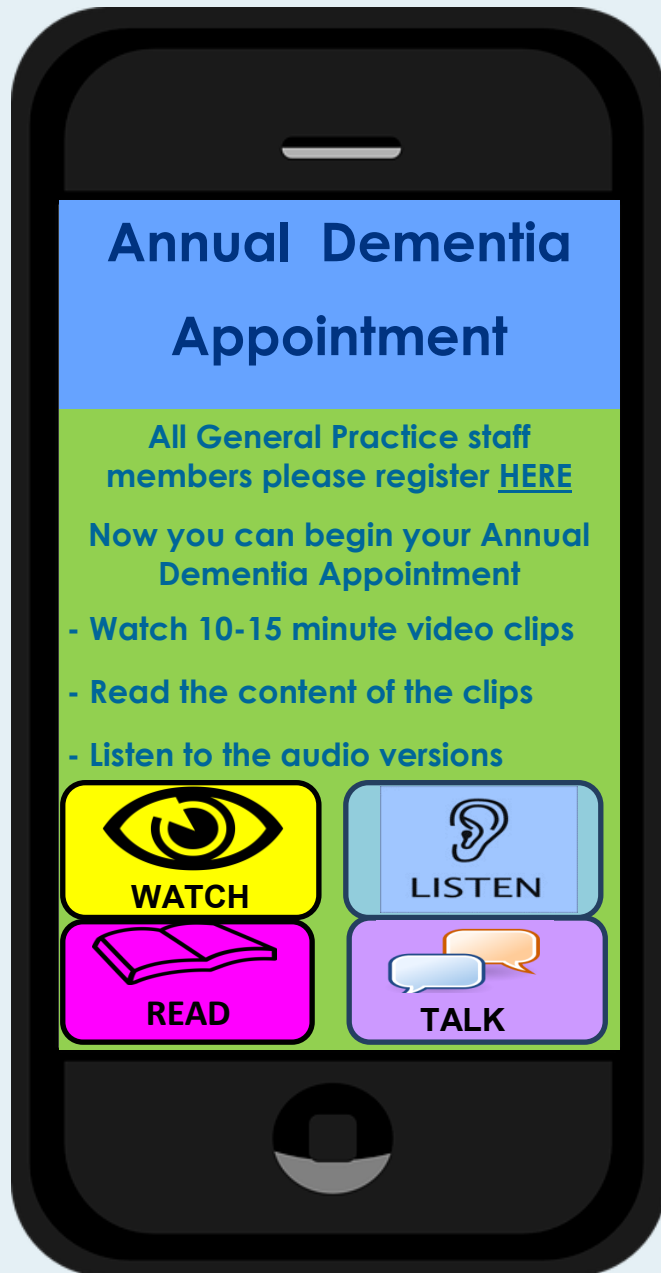
Dementia care updates

Where to go for help in a crisis

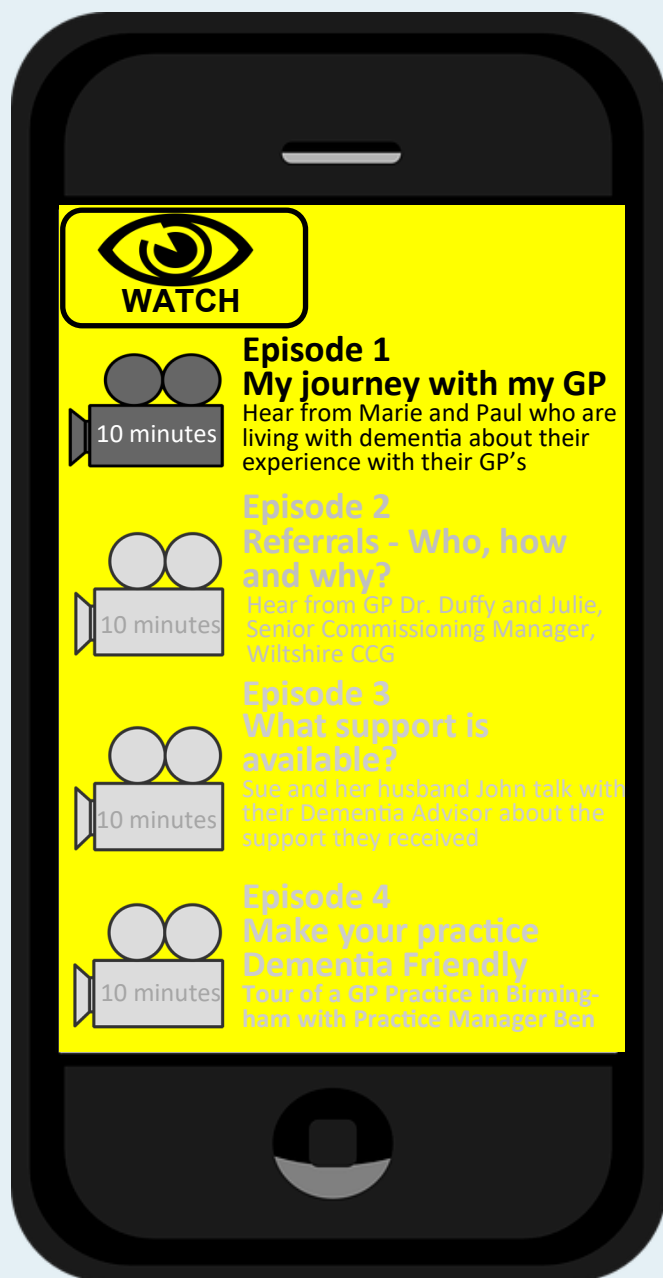
Where to access support and financial information

Feedback and review on how practice views their success regarding disseminating information

Involvement of people affected by dementia and carers in the creation of the Annual Dementia Appointment



- * **The Annual Dementia Appointment is for anyone working within a General Practice**
- * **It will be available to access online in app and or web based format**
- * **The Annual Dementia Appointment will contain four bitesize episodes**
- * **Each bitesize episode will take only 10 minutes, similarly to the length of an appointment slot with a GP**
- * **The Annual Dementia Appointment will have options for watching, reading or listening to each 10 minute episode**
- * **Can be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at a time to suit General Practice team members**



Episode 1

My dementia journey with my GP

Hear from Jamie and Sam about two very different experiences when visiting the GP and the impact on those involved.

Including the following:

- * The importance of the GP's role
- * Impact of GP's approach and communication
- * The reality of signs and symptoms
- * What it feels like to be given a diagnosis of dementia
- * What is 'best practice' and what does this mean for someone with dementia?
- * Where to go from here with the time pressures facing GP's?



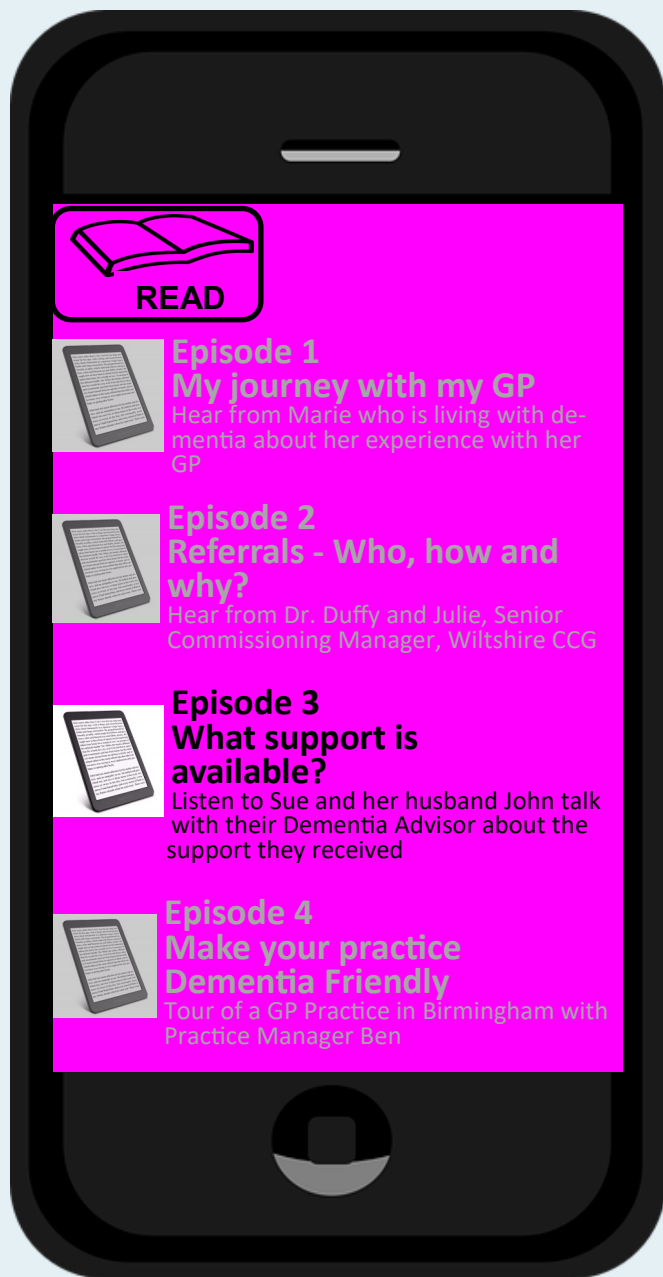
Episode 2

Referrals—Who, how and why?

Drew, a GP and Vic, a Senior Commissioning Manager explain who to refer to, how to refer and why.

Including the following:

- * Information about Dementia Connect—Alzheimer’s Society new directory of services and how to refer
- * Developing a relationship and continuity with a local Alzheimer’s Society contact
- * Where to find assistance for carers and help in crisis
- * How to help patients to access information and support
- * Examples of current best practice in General Practices
- * Where to access dementia care updates
- * Feedback and review of how ‘practices view’ their success in relation to disseminating information



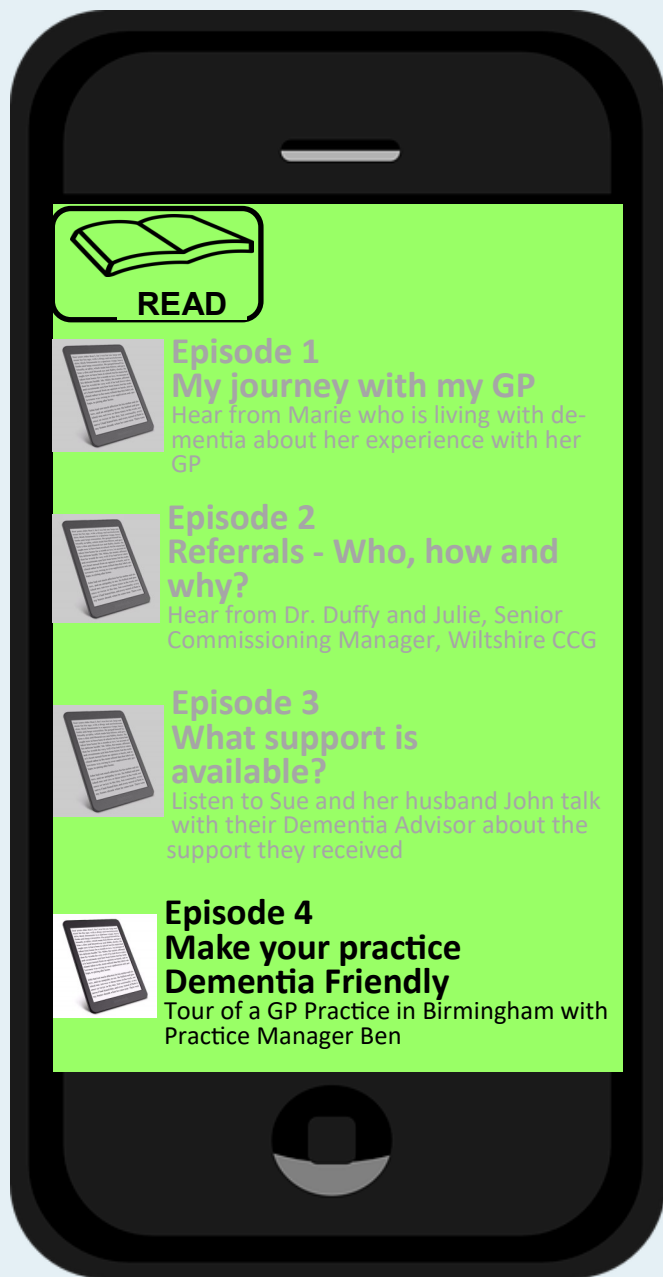
Episode 3

What support is available?

Alex and her partner Jai share their experience of the support they received from Dementia Advisor Jo.

Including the following:

- * The next steps after a diagnosis of dementia
- * How to access support and information
- * First contact with a Dementia Advisor
- * The real meaning and impact of personalised support
- * Developing links with other people affected by dementia
- * The door to a wider network of health professionals working together
- * Avoiding crisis
- * Planning ahead and further follow up

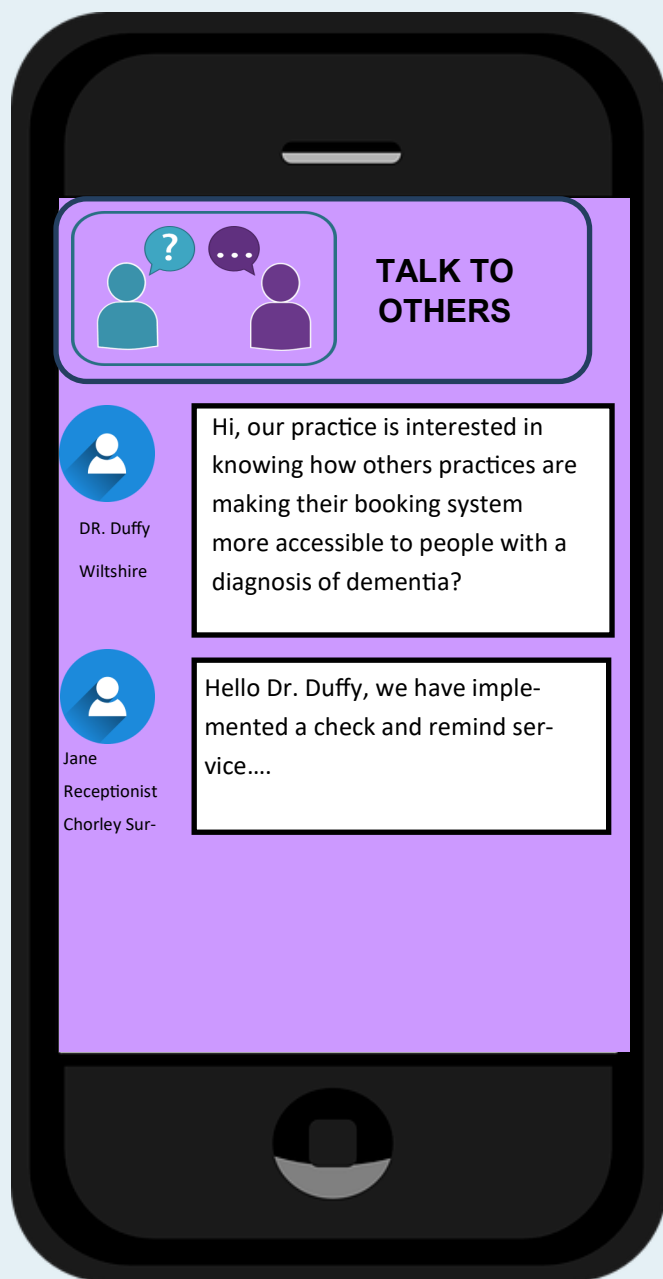


Episode 4

Practice Manager, Ben, will give you a guide of his GP surgery and will highlight what changes have been put in place, to work towards being a Dementia Friendly General Practice

Including the following:

- * How to become 'dementia aware'
- * Appointment system
- * Important role of reception staff and the Dementia Champion
- * Navigating the physical environment



A closed online forum for team members of General Practices, which will provide an opportunity for:

- * Individuals working in General Practices to communicate with other practices
- * Sharing of ideas
- * Hearing about and learning from others experiences
- * Creating a network of peer support

Thank you for looking through the plans for the Annual Dementia Appointment for General Practice teams.

Your feedback is crucial in helping us decide if the Annual Dementia Appointment should be developed and tested in the real world!

Please help us by completing one of the following two surveys,:

- * **Survey for people affected by dementia - [here](#)**
- * **Survey for General Practice and professionals working in this area - [here](#)**

Many thanks you for your time.

Alzheimer's Society Innovation Team