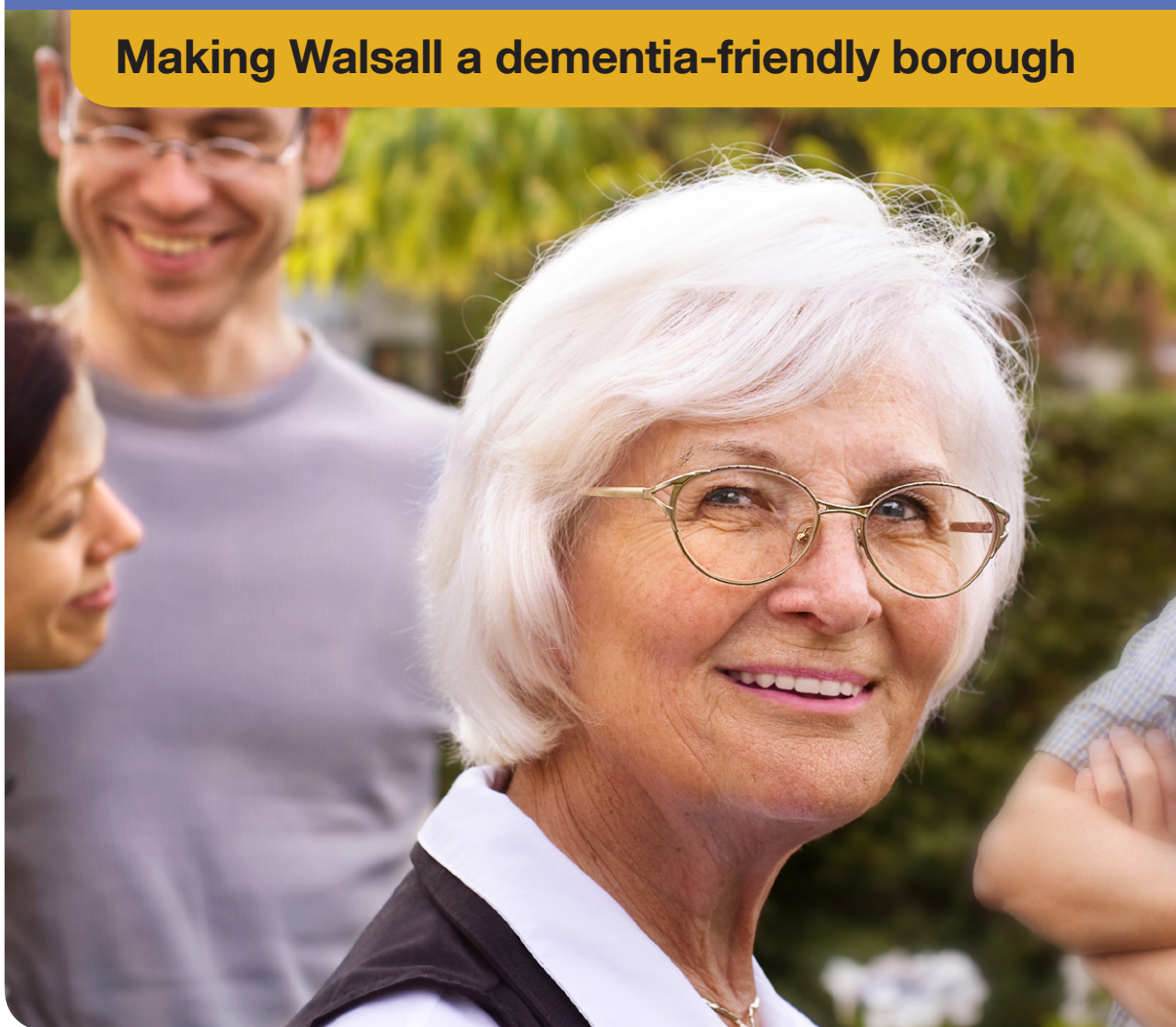




# Checklist for dementia-friendly environments

**Making Walsall a dementia-friendly borough**



Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group



Walsall Council

**Briefing note**

## Small changes can make a big difference in the internal environment.

The checklists below have much to offer those in a position to influence large-scale development, redevelopment or infill.

However, there are a number of changes that could be considered at much smaller scale and cost, especially in the indoor environment, that can have a major impact on improving accessibility for people with dementia:

### Signage

- Signs are clear, in bold face with good contrast between text and background, pictorial if possible  
 YES  NO
- There is a contrast between the sign and the surface it is mounted on  
 YES  NO
- Signs are fixed to the doors they refer to, not on adjacent surfaces  
 YES  NO
- Signs are at eye-level and well-lit  
 YES  NO
- Abstract images and icons are not used on signage  
 YES  NO
- There are signs at key decision points for someone who is trying to navigate your premises for the first time  
 YES  NO
- Signs for toilets and exits are clearly marked  
 YES  NO
- Glass doors are clearly marked  
 YES  NO

### Lighting

- Entrances are well-lit and make as much use of natural light as possible  
 YES  NO
- Pools of bright light and deep shadows are avoided  
 YES  NO

### Flooring

- There are no highly reflective or slippery floor surfaces  
 YES  NO
- Changes in floor finish are flush  
 YES  NO

### Seating

- In larger premises, there is a seating area, especially in areas where people are waiting  
 YES  NO
- The seating provided looks like seating. For example, a wooden bench rather than an abstract metal z-shaped bench  
 YES  NO

### Navigation

- Landmarks are used to help people navigate their way around, both inside and outside. The more attractive and interesting the landmark (which could be a painting or a plant), the easier it is to use as a landmark  
 YES  NO

## Environmental checklists

There are a number of very thorough environmental checklists available at no cost online.

### These include:

- Neighbourhoods for Life
- Designing dementia-friendly outdoor environments.

## Produced by Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development.

This is aimed primarily at 'designers', at all scales from urban design to street furniture, on the criteria to consider in developing dementia-friendly urban areas. But is also of interest to those thinking about the outside environment at any level.

<http://www.housinglin.org.uk/Topics/browse/HousingandDementia/Design/?parent=5091&child=6988>

## Dementia Design Checklist

### Design checks for people with dementia in healthcare premises

Produced by NHS Scotland with the University of Stirling and DSDC Stirling

This is aimed at healthcare facilities and is very thorough, but still has much of application to other indoor environments and those wanting to consider improvements on a smaller scale.

<http://www.dementiashop.co.uk/products/dementia-design-checklist>

Stirling University Dementia Services Development Centre produces a wide range of publications in the theme of design for dementia:

<http://www.dementiashop.co.uk/taxonomy/term/11>

## Alzheimer's Australia NSW Dementia and Age-Friendly Outdoor Design Checklist

This is contained within Building Dementia and Age-Friendly Neighbourhoods, produced by Alzheimer's Australia NSW

It is a short checklist, some of which is quite localised in its priorities, but has much relevance to those planning and designing new indoor and outdoor environments.

<http://www.fightdementia.org.au/common/files/NSW/DementiaFriendlyNeighbourhoodsWebVersion.pdf>

## Checklist of Essential Features of Age-friendly Cities

### Produced by the World Health Organisation

Age-friendly environments have much in common with those for people with dementia. This is aimed at those working at a strategic level and is intended as a tool for measuring dementia-friendliness across a wide variety of domains, including housing and social inclusion.

[http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/Age\\_friendly\\_cities\\_checklist.pdf](http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/Age_friendly_cities_checklist.pdf)





Sunflower adapted from a photograph  
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