

The Dementia Clinic

Working together to tackle undiagnosed dementia



What is The Dementia Clinic?

Memory problems can have many causes, including low mood, poor sleep or medical conditions such as dementia. The Dementia Clinic is here to help identify the underlying cause of your symptoms and offer expert assessment, guidance and support to help you live as actively and independently as possible.

This is a self-pay service offering a thorough, personalised assessment. You'll have a dedicated customer advisor as your main point of contact throughout the process. Clinical care is delivered in partnership with Here, with assessments led by experienced specialist nurses and doctors.

How to access the service

You can refer yourself by calling us directly, or ask your GP to refer you by emailing dementia@ageukwsbh.org.uk

During your first contact, an Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove (AUKWSBH) customer advisor will:

- Introduce the service
- Explain how we can support you
- Ask a few questions to check if the clinic is the right fit for your needs and plan the next steps

Please note: You are also entitled to a free memory or dementia assessment through the NHS, which your GP can arrange, although waiting times may vary.

What's included in the Dementia Clinic assessment

Our service is designed to be thorough, compassionate and reliable. Here's what you can expect:

Registration & clinical triage

After registering, our clinical team reviews your information to confirm a full dementia assessment is appropriate.

Comprehensive dementia assessment

You'll meet a specialist for a detailed history and full cognitive assessment. If needed, a brain scan may be arranged (charged separately).

Multidisciplinary team review

Your assessment results, history and blood tests will be reviewed by an experienced team to reach a diagnosis collaboratively.

Diagnosis & support appointment

You'll be invited to a follow-up appointment where your diagnosis is shared in a supportive and sensitive way. Time will be provided to ask questions and discuss next steps.

GP communication (with your consent)

A detailed report will be sent to your GP so they are kept informed and can support you going forward.

Follow-up contact

A few days after your diagnosis appointment, a member of our team will check in to offer further guidance and support.

Before your assessment

To ensure a safe and accurate assessment, please have the following in place before starting:

- GP summary including recent dementia screening blood tests, or
- Dementia screening bloods from a private provider, along with a GP summary

This helps rule out other causes of memory concerns and ensures the assessment is meaningful. If you have a brain scan less than six months old, we will review this to determine if it can be used as part of the diagnosis.

Pricing

The dementia assessment costs £1,275, including:

- £275 registration & triage fee (paid on registration)
- £1,000 assessment fee (payable after triage, at the time of booking your memory assessment).

Please note that the £275 registration and triage fee is non-refundable. During the triage process, our clinicians may occasionally identify factors that mean a full dementia assessment is not appropriate. In such cases, you will receive a clear explanation and guidance on alternative next steps.

If a brain scan is required, this will be charged separately, with prices starting from £375, payable at the time of booking.

What to expect during your Dementia assessment

After your initial conversation with the customer advisor and confirmation that service is suitable for you, the next steps are:

- Your first clinical appointment with a specialist nurse will last approximately 90 minutes and include a combination of verbal and written cognitive assessments.
- Appointments are offered in person at our Brighton & Hove location.
- We recommend bringing someone with you for support. If you would like a chaperone, please let us know in advance so this can be arranged.

After your dementia assessment appointment

Following your assessment, the specialist nurse will discuss your initial results with you. In some cases, a brain scan may be recommended to support the diagnostic process. If this is required, the nurse will explain the reasons, and we will make all necessary arrangements for you.

Please ensure the clinic made are aware of any medical devices (such as pacemakers) or if you have any difficulties tolerating an MRI scan, so appropriate safety checks can be carried out.

Once the scan has been completed (if needed), you will be invited to a follow-up appointment with a clinician to review and discuss the findings in detail.

If you are diagnosed with dementia

If a diagnosis of dementia is confirmed, a member of the Dementia Clinic team will contact you within a few days to discuss how you are feeling and offer further support and guidance. We will help you and your family understand the diagnosis, explore available services and access ongoing support.

In some cases, medication may be recommended to help manage symptoms.

Please note that the Dementia Clinic cannot initiate dementia medication directly; with your consent, a request will be sent to your GP to arrange and oversee this process.

Questions and Support

If you have questions about your appointments or need assistance:

- Phone: 01903 792015 (Monday – Friday, 9am – 4pm)
- Email: dementia@ageukwsbh.org.uk

For emotional support:

Sussex Mental Healthline: 0800 0309 500 (24 hours)

Samaritans: 116 123 (24 hours)

Dementia Connect Helpline: 0333 150 3456

If you feel unsafe and need immediate help:

Mental Health Rapid Response Service: 0300 304 0078 (24 hours)

For emergencies, call 999.

What you can expect from our service

At AUKWSBH Dementia Clinic, we treat you with respect, dignity, and fairness. You are involved in all decisions about your care, and your safety and wellbeing are our priorities.

Feedback is welcome even if you do not use our service, helping us improve support in the future.

To access your records, contact The Dementia Clinic.

More information can be found by visiting our website:

www.ageuk.org.uk/westsussexbrightonhove

The Age UK West Sussex Brighton & Hove Dementia Clinic is delivered in partnership with Here.

Here is a not-for-profit healthcare provider. For over a decade, it has been dedicated to delivering high-quality dementia services built on the values of clinical excellence and compassion.

You can learn more about HERE at <https://hereweare.org.uk>