

Executive Summary of the Sage House Evaluation

Given the prevalence of dementia in the UK and its detrimental impact for the individual, informal care partners and more largely the economy, a key objective for both research and policy is to ensure there are effective support processes.

Despite past initiatives to promote effective diagnostic and post-diagnostic support, many people living with dementia and their care partners do not receive the support they so desperately need.

The Sage House Model has been developed in response to this need and is exemplified by a Centre of excellence called Sage House, which provides integrative and personalised services.

This report evaluates the Sage House Model across a range of empirical studies, with the intention of gaining a deep understanding of how this novel integrative community-based approach can contribute to improved wellbeing and financial outcomes and the potential for it to provide positive social impact.

Wellbeing & Health Economic Outcomes

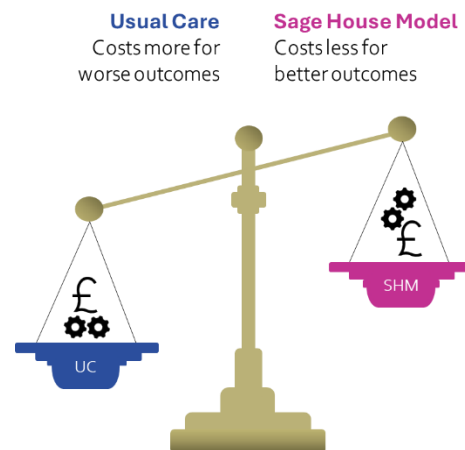
The first objective was to understand whether having access to Sage House could provide tangible quantitative benefits across a range of important outcome measures.

Wellbeing Outcomes

In this first study a group of people living with dementia and their care partners with access to Sage House were compared to a control group on a range of wellbeing measures that are important to enable people to "Live Well" with dementia. We found that in comparison to the control group, people living with dementia who had access to Sage House had better Quality of Life, Wellbeing and Life Satisfaction. Moreover, their care partners had better needs-based Quality of Life due to improved access to information and support.

Cost Effectiveness

Participants also provided details regarding their engagement with the NHS and Adult Social Care over a period of 3 months. This information enabled us to estimate individual costs using the national schedule of NHS costs and unit costs of health and social care sources. On average it was found that people living with dementia with access to Sage House were costing on average **£430.50** less over the 3-month period in comparison to those without access.



Moreover, after factoring in the price of funding places at Sage House the model still proved to be **cost effective**, demonstrating improved outcomes for less cost.

Qualitative Feedback

Participants also provided qualitative feedback on their experience of diagnosis and post-diagnostic support. From this feedback it was evident that for many people within the UK access to diagnosis and support is still suboptimal, with powerful phrasing being utilised such as void, black hole, abandoned and fragmented. This stood in contrast to the participants with access to Sage House, who used phrasing such as, **lifeline, safe, proactive, and connected**.

Satisfaction Levels and Subjective Wellbeing

To gain a deeper understanding a survey and series of interviews were undertaken with both people living with dementia and their care partners who were actively using Sage House's services.

Survey & Interview Feedback

The services offered by Sage House received excellent ratings regarding satisfaction levels and targeted feedback that highlighted the benefits of the integrated approach undertaken. Participants commented on practical and social advantages that led to greater subjective wellbeing outcomes.

Moreover, participants noted how having access to the centre gave them an alternative means of information and support, that otherwise they would have needed to have engaged with the NHS or Adult Social Care services for. As an additional benefit noted, for those of working age having access to Sage House had supported them to continue working longer.

Within the interviews participants expanded on this feedback highlighting how Sage House provided excellent **proactive support**, which was **personalised** to their needs and supported them to stay active, engage in enrichment and to receive social support.

For the care partners who took part they noted how the support received from Sage House helped them to maintain their own **wellbeing** and therefore, provide better support for the person they were caring for.

Positive Social Impact

Given the community-based approach adopted, it was also of interest to understand whether the observed benefits extended to providing positive social benefits for the local community. Within the area local to Sage House and its satellite services, less stigmatising attitudes were observed, and the community was experienced as dementia friendly by a higher proportion of individuals.

Conclusion

When these findings are taken together, they demonstrate the vast potential of the Sage House Model of Dementia Support, to provide a cost-effective avenue to improve wellbeing outcomes for people living with dementia and their care partners and to elicit positive social change.



Sage House & The Sage House Model

Sage House is an example of a community based integrated approach to dementia support. It stands as a hub, bringing together specialised dementia support services and partners under one roof. The services are flexible, enabling continuity across the dementia journey as the needs of the individual with dementia change.

- No referral required
- Pre-diagnostic support
- Diagnostic services operated onsite by the local NHS Trust
- Wayfinder service offers personalised support and guidance
- Post- diagnostic services span from intervention, enrichment and social support to day care and support with personal care
- Care Partner training and support

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