



Op Resolute – The Herbert Protocol

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The relationship between dementia and going missing.

- People with dementia can occasionally wander. Sometimes this may be rooted in old behaviours or seeking out locations that hold meaning for the person.
- Wandering can put people with dementia at risk as they may be unable to sufficiently care for themselves, identify risk, or ask for help.
- Each year, many people with dementia are reported missing to police while wandering. The risk assessment in these cases is nearly always deemed to be high.
- Protracted high risk investigations create significant demand for MPS resources.

Planning & Prevention

- Every time a person with dementia is reported missing to police the resolution and closure of the incident should include measures intended to ensure the likelihood of a reoccurrence is reduced.
- Planning and prevention measures should minimise the likelihood that a person wandering will need to be reported to police.
- Should always be developed in the **best interests** of the person and their families.
- Requires engagement with carers and/or family members and the Local Authority
- Should focus on professional partnership.

The Herbert Protocol



The Herbert Protocol is an information sharing form which allows Carers, family or friends of a vulnerable person to share information with the police in the event that the person goes missing.

- Remains with the carer, family, friend or a trusted neighbour.
- Prevents the need to remember information when a carer or family member may be under stress.
- Is only required by the police if the person is reported missing.

In the event of a change of circumstances the form should be updated at the earliest opportunity. Examples of this would be; a change in medication, behaviour, places frequented, daily routine etc.

Copies of the form can be found on the MPS website – search The Herbert Protocol.

<https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/missing-person/missing-persons/vulnerable-people-at-risk-of-going-missing/dementia-missing-risk-herbert-protocol/>

Herbert Protocol form

People with dementia sometimes get lost and go missing. If you care for someone with dementia you can fill in this form containing information to give to the police if the person goes missing.

This means you don't have to remember the information when you are under stress if someone goes missing. And it saves time, so the police can start the search sooner.

You can fill in this form on your computer or print it out and fill it in by hand. Keep it somewhere safe where you can easily find it if the person goes missing. You could give a copy to friends, family and neighbours. Keep this information up to date whenever something changes. You only need to give the form to the police if the person goes missing.

Details are helpful, but don't worry if you can't answer every question. There is space at the end of the form to tell us more if you run out of space for any of the questions. And you can always add another page to a printout or add something to an email.

The person's basic details

First name(s)

Surname

Other names they go by (for example nicknames or aliases)

Date of birth

Gender

Is their gender the same as at birth?

Nationality

Ethnicity

Husband, wife or partner's first name

Husband, wife or partner's surname

Their contact details

Main home address, or best contact address

Any other addresses they might go to (for example a second home)

Mobile phone number(s)

Email address(es)

Social media account details

Do they have a tracking system, or wear or carry medical alert or ID information? Please give details

Physical description

Height

Build (for example tall, short, athletic, stocky)

Hair colour, length and style

Complexion

Facial hair

Identifying marks

Any distinguishing physical characteristics

Anything else about their physical appearance that would be useful for us to know

Health

Their type and symptoms of dementia

Any other medical conditions like diabetes, asthma, heart problems, including symptoms

What medication do they take?

GPS Trackers

- There are a number of companies providing cost effective tracking devices that are suitable for people with dementia.
- GPS Devices can be used to support safer walking for people with dementia, enabling and supporting them to remain independently active and mobile within their community.
- They give carers the peace of mind that they can find their loved ones should they become lost while allowing the person to continue with their regular routine e.g. going shopping, attending clubs, visiting friends or just going out for a walk.
- GPS trackers are a hugely important strategy in limiting the time a person is wandering and can reduce unnecessary police involvement.
- If a person is reported missing to police and they don't have a tracker, or if the tracker is not being used, this should prompt police advice to the family or the Local Authority.

Note: The Police cannot endorse or recommend any specific GPS tracker or tracker provider, although we can sign-post options.

Bexley Local Authority

- Capacity and Independent Living
- Support networks
- Local Authority applications
- Partnership planning and prevention.
- Support them to live independently in their own homes for a longer period of time.
- Avoid long and protracted missing investigation as a High Risk misper.
- Monitoring and safeguarding.

Dementia Misper Debriefs

An Adult Come to Notice report is required on each occasion a vulnerable adult is found. Doing this ensures that a multi agency safeguarding response can be coordinated. Consider the following when completing the report;



Diagnosis

What type of Dementia have they been diagnosed with. When and by whom.

Living situation

Do they live alone, with a spouse or other family members who're struggling to keep their loved one safe.

Health

Do they have any additional health conditions.

Care/Support

Are they supported by family or agency care workers. Ask if you can see a copy of their care plan. How many times a day do carers visit.

Safeguarding measures

Document any safeguarding advice you've discussed with the person or their family/carer i.e. GPS Tracker, Door alarm, Key safe, Identity/medical bracelet, The Herbert Protocol etc.



Questions?

Bexley Telecare inbox
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