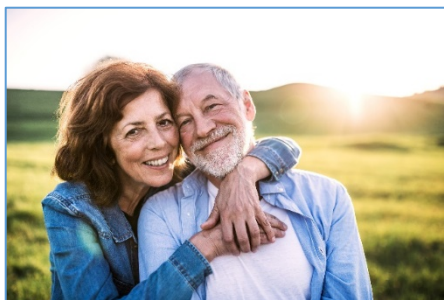


Missing Persons Planning & Prevention Strategies for People with Dementia



Reports of people with dementia who have gone missing while wandering away from home can create high demand for police resources.

Wherever possible, **planning and prevention** measures should be developed to minimise the likelihood that a person who may wander will be reported as a missing person.

Bespoke measures, appropriate for the person and their circumstances, will protect them from harm, provide reassurance for their family, and reduce the need for police involvement.

GPS Devices



The Metropolitan Police cannot endorse a specific GPS device or provider, however, an internet search for 'GPS DEMENTIA' will return a number of options to consider. Support services, outlined below, may also assist.

GPS Devices can include watches, smartphones and pendants. Functions vary by device, but may include GPS tracking, automatic fall detection and a personal alarm. They may also act as a 'door alarm' by sending an alert if the wearer leaves a specified location.

Tracking enables a family or other trusted contacts to be reassured that the wearer of a GPS devices can be located if they become lost, wander, or find themselves in difficulty. This function significantly reduces the need to involve police in a search.

There are many providers of GPS devices available at varying cost- some require a monthly fee to access online services. It is recommended to research all options available to ensure that the type of device and functions offered are suitable for individual circumstances.

A number of Local Authorities across London have contracts with providers and in some instances will fund a suitable GPS device.

Herbert Protocol



The Herbert Protocol is a planning measure for people with dementia at risk of going missing. If a missing person with a completed form is reported to police it can be provided to first responders to efficiently communicate the person's relevant background, behaviour and history, thereby supporting police to develop the best possible early investigation strategy.

Further information about completing the form, can be found at:

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

Support

This guide is targeted towards people with dementia becoming missing persons and provides details of two key planning and prevention measures. In many cases, appropriate support for a person with dementia will go beyond this, and there are a number of police partners that can assist with wider concerns. This could be a person's GP, community support, or their Local Authority. It may also include national and local charities, including:

- Dementia UK – www.dementiauk.org
- Alzheimer's Society (Dementia Connect) – www.alzheimers.org.uk
- Age UK – www.ageuk.org.uk