Worksheet 18: Understanding the impact of dementia on a young person and their family

Young onset dementia	Late onset dementia
Diagnosed before age 65	Diagnosed after age 65
Main causes (in order of prevalence) Alzheimer's disease Vascular disease Fronto-temporal disease	Main causes (in order of prevalence) Alzheimer's disease Vascular disease Lewy Body disease Fronto-temporal disease
Average length of time to diagnosis 4.4 years	Average length of time to diagnosis 2.8 years
Symptoms Tend to be behavioural – changes in usual behaviour and reactions, becoming irritable, apathetic, disinhibited in speech and behaviour, progressive language disorder, visuo-spatial problems, perceptual problems, cognitive impairments e.g. memory changes	Symptoms Tend to be cognitive impairments which are noticed first – memory problems, disorientation, difficulty concentrating, understanding, verbal language difficulties – then behavioural changes
Barriers to diagnosis	Barriers to diagnosis
Lifestyle	Lifestyle
Treatment and support	Treatment and support