Dr Karen Harrison Dening

**Biography**

Karen is a nurse by background with three nursing registrations (RMN, RNMH & RN) with over 45 years of experience, mostly spent in dementia care in a various settings. She is Head of Research & Publications for Dementia UK and Admiral Nursing, specialists in dementia care. Admiral Nurses offer a case management intervention in supporting families affected by dementia. She undertook her PhD at University College London focusing on advance care planning in the context of palliative and end-of-life care in dementia in the Division of Psychiatry in the Faculty of Brain Sciences. She holds several honorary academic positions at UK universities. She has been fortunate to be in a position to influence policy and guidance in the field of dementia, serving on several committees with NICE; most recently the refresh of the dementia guideline. Her research interests are varied but include; palliative and end-of-life care and advance care planning.

**Title**

**COVID-19 & Dementia: Supporting people and improving care through COVID-19**

**Abstract**

When the first national lockdown came into effect in March 2020 in response to COVID-19, life changed significantly. Ensuring that a person with dementia’s needs, rights and wishes for care are respected has always been challenging for families; overwhelming bureaucracy, a lack of understanding of dementia from key professionals and difficult decisions for families around end of life care prevail. The coronavirus compounded these issues with services and social contacts for people with dementia and their families stopping overnight and being very slow to resume. This presentation will consider the experiences of families affected by dementia during the pandemic, specifically those living in the community and care home settings and consider their needs with a focus on end-of-life, as we move forward.