

3 July 2017		ITEM: 10
Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Southend, Essex and Thurrock Dementia Strategy 2017 - 2021		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Not applicable	
Report of: Catherine Wilson Strategic Lead Commissioning and Procurement		
Accountable Head of Service: Les Billingham Head of Adult Social Care		
Accountable Director: Roger Harris Corporate Director Adults Housing and Health		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

The Southend, Essex and Thurrock Dementia Strategy 2017-2021 is a collaborative piece of work between people living with dementia, their carers, the three Local Authorities and the seven CCG's within Greater Essex. The vision for future development detailed in the strategy is:

People living with dementia are recognised as unique individuals who are actively shaping their lives and their care whilst being able to remain physically and emotionally healthy for as long as possible.

Dementia is a term which can cover a range of symptoms that have resulted in damage to the brain. This damage can affect memory, attention, communication, problem solving abilities and behaviour. People living with dementia may also experience depression, aggression, and wandering. Each person's experience of dementia is different and it's progression for each individual can be at very different paces.

The strategy is a response to a growing understanding that the range of support available for people living with dementia across Greater Essex is fragmented and perceived as difficult to access by those requiring it. The strategy sits alongside the Southend Essex and Thurrock Mental Health and Well Being Strategy supporting a comprehensive all age vision for positive mental health across Greater Essex.

The Southend, Essex and Thurrock Dementia Strategy is also building on the National Dementia Strategy: Living Well with Dementia published in 2009, which focused on improving the care and experiences of people with dementia and their carers.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That Heath and Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree to recommend to Cabinet that Thurrock Council endorse the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Dementia Strategy 2017-2021**
- 1.2 That Heath and Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree that a local Thurrock implementation plan is developed to deliver the Dementia Strategy in Thurrock.**
- 1.3 That the implementation plan is brought back to Heath and Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Thurrock Council and Thurrock CCG have and continue to be very proactive in raising awareness of dementia and supporting those living with dementia and their carers. The South Essex Dementia Strategy 2014 to 2017 has delivered and supported a number of initiatives in Thurrock. Thurrock is a dementia friendly Council and dementia friends training has been made available to all employees and Councillors, this has been widely taken up and has resulted in Thurrock Council being recognised as a Dementia Friendly Council. The training is ongoing delivered by the Alzheimer's Society and is open to anyone within Thurrock to attend. On the 22nd June 2017 the Alzheimer's Society held an awareness raising stall at the Civic Offices one of many events frequently held across Thurrock. Thurrock Council and Thurrock CCG jointly fund the Alzheimer's Society to deliver a number of services including a memory clinic, Dementia Café's, and a motivational men's group. The Alzheimer's workers are co-located in the Civic Offices within Adult Social Care. The funding for the Alzheimer's Society has recently been increased by Thurrock Council and Thurrock CCG recognising the growing need.
- 2.2 The new Southend, Essex and Thurrock Dementia Strategy has been developed to continue and expand on this positive work. There are five main elements that underpin the approach within the strategy; the first is that there are great benefits in working across Greater Essex to develop a strategic approach. The second area is the development of a new model of specialist support which will develop a clearer pathway from early intervention to diagnosis and ongoing support. The third element which clearly builds on our local successes is to ensure that support is personalised, empowering and delivered within local dementia friendly communities. Fourthly using assistive technology imaginatively and creatively can offer support around safety and independence within a family and community environment delaying and reducing the need for wider service intervention supported by the Care Act 2014. Finally the voice of those with lived experience is essential to develop the local implementation plans that will come from the overall strategy.
- 2.3 The Southend, Essex and Thurrock Dementia Strategy lays out nine priority areas of work which Thurrock Council and Thurrock CCG fully support. These

nine priorities are focused on improving the lived experience of those with dementia and their families and carers by addressing the fragmentation of response and lack of understanding of dementia. It is important that the pathway for those living with dementia is clear and where services are required accessible. Working across Greater Essex may offer some opportunities to work together particularly around timely diagnosis, building a knowledgeable and skilled workforce and reducing risk of crisis. As yet the local implementation plan has not been developed however it is clear that we would want to ask for support from Healthwatch and the wider voluntary sector to ensure that those living with dementia and their cares are guiding how support should be available in Thurrock, from statutory health and social care services to living well with dementia in local communities. The nine priorities are detailed on pages 9, 10 and 11 of the strategy attached at appendix 1. For reference the priorities are as follows, early intervention and prevention, making available good information and advice, developing a clear diagnostic pathway with ongoing support. Supporting people living with dementia to be full members of an understanding community, supporting carers and reducing risks with good education, training and emergency planning. Living well in long term care which may be residential care. Developing positive end of life planning and care. Ensuring the workforce has the skills to support those living with dementia. The delivery of these priorities are framed in measures of success, within our Thurrock Implementation plan we would want to build on these to have measures of success specific to Thurrock.

- 2.4 The implementation plan at the close of the strategy will require further revision once we have developed the Thurrock Local Implementation Plan and we are clear that a number of areas will be more locally focussed.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 The Southend, Essex and Thurrock Dementia Strategy 2017 – 2021 offers opportunities to work closely together across Greater Essex to utilise economies of scale for service development where appropriate.
- 3.2 There is no additional funding available and the Local Implementation Plan will need to address reinvestment of current resources creatively and imaginatively.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 That the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Dementia Strategy 2017-2021 is endorsed by Thurrock Council and Thurrock CCG as a positive response to the growing numbers of people living with dementia and the need to ensure a continued personalise approach to support and care.
- 4.2 The strategy will support the development of a locally focussed implementation plan enhancing what is already happening in Thurrock and developing that further.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 The Strategy has been developed in consultation with individuals with lived experience of dementia and their carers together with the voluntary sector and other services across Greater Essex. This was not extensive in Thurrock and we are clear that as we move forward with the local implementation plan wider consultation will take place building on the nine priorities and focusing on what is important to people in Thurrock.
- 5.2 A report will be presented to Health and Well Being Board in July 2017.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 Thurrock Council is already a Dementia Friendly Council meaning that Offices and Councillors are aware that dementia should be highlighted in the policies and priorities of the wider Council. Dementia Friends training is offered on a regular basis within the Council and to the wider Community which will support the implementation of the strategy as a key priority is a person living with dementia being part of their local community.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Jo Freeman**
Management Accountant (Social care and Commissioning) Corporate Finance

Currently there are no financial implications for this report. This will be reviewed as the Thurrock Implementation Plan is developed.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Roger Harris**
Corporate Director Adults Housing and Health

There are no legal implications for this report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roger Harris**
Corporate Director Adults Housing and Health

It is important that Dementia is viewed as an integral part of the Community of Thurrock, that those living with Dementia are not disadvantaged by the condition and they have continued and where necessary supported access to

their everyday lives. The principles within the strategy are a positive foundation for the local implementation plan. The development of this plan will be monitored closely ensuring equality and diversity are central. It will be essential to ensure that in any future service development is underpinned by social value opportunities.

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

N/A

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

N/A

9. **Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1 - Southend, Essex and Thurrock Dementia Strategy 2017-2021

Report Author:

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Adults Housing and Health