

12 March 2018		ITEM: 8
Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Dementia Strategy – Implementation Progress		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Not applicable	
Report of: Catherine Wilson - Strategic Lead Commissioning and Procurement		
Accountable Assistant Director: Les Billingham - Assistant Director Adult Social Care and Community Development		
Accountable Director: Roger Harris - Corporate Director Adults, Housing and Health		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to update Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the progress within Thurrock of the implementation of the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Dementia Strategy 2017 – 2021 and to inform Members of future events to ensure an inclusive approach to the strategy implementation in Thurrock.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 For Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comment on the current position regarding the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Dementia Strategy in Thurrock.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 This strategy is for everyone in Southend, Essex and Thurrock who is living with dementia or supporting someone who is. It describes what we want support for people with dementia to look like in the future and it describes nine priorities for action to make this happen.

2.2 The purpose of the new strategy is to reduce fragmentation in service delivery and accessibility to information support and advice across Greater Essex for people with lived experience of dementia and for organisations offering support. The strategy aspires to deliver its vision that:

“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”.

Within the strategy there are nine priorities these are:

- **Prevention** – to ensure that people in Thurrock have good health and wellbeing enabling them to live full and independent lives for longer.
- **Finding Information and advice** – Everyone with dementia will have access to the right information at the right time.
- **Diagnosis and support** – all people with dementia will receive appropriate and timely diagnosis and integrated support.
- **Living well with dementia in the community** – all people with dementia are supported by their communities to remain independent for as long as possible.
- **Supporting Carers** – carers are supported to enable people with dementia to remain as independent as possible.
- **Reducing risk of crisis** – all people with dementia receive support to reduce the risks and manage crisis.
- **Living well in long term care** – all people with dementia live well when they are supported in long term care.
- **End of life** – people with dementia and their families plan ahead, receive good end of life care and are able to die in accordance with their own wishes.
- **To have a knowledgeable and skilled workforce** – all people with dementia receive support from knowledgeable and skilled professionals where needed.

2.3 Living Well with Dementia: A National Dementia Strategy published by the Department of Health on the 3rd February 2009 laid the foundation for significant changes across Health and Social Care for the support of people living with dementia.

Dementia continues to be a growing challenge. As the population ages and people live for longer, it has become one of the most important health and care issues facing the world. In England it is estimated that around 676,000 people have dementia. In the whole of the UK, the number of people with dementia is estimated at 850,000.

Dementia is a key priority for both NHS England and the Government. In February 2015 the Challenge on Dementia 2020, was launched. It sets out NHS England's aim that by 2020 we are:

- The best country in the world for dementia care and support for individuals with dementia, their carers and families to live; and
- The best place in the world to undertake research into dementia and other neurodegenerative diseases.

Some of the key aspirations of this vision are:

- Equal access to diagnosis for everyone
- GPs playing a lead role in ensuring coordination and continuity of care for people with dementia
- Every person diagnosed with dementia having meaningful care following their diagnosis
- All NHS staff having received training on dementia appropriate to their role.

One of the priorities identified by NHS England as part of the Five Year Forward View is to improve the quality of care and access to mental health and dementia services.

2.4 In Thurrock we are moving forward very positively with the delivery of the nine priorities within the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Dementia Strategy.

- The Alzheimer's Society will be leading the development of our local Dementia Alliance. This will start in the first quarter of 2018-2019 and the Dementia Alliance will continue the work around the further development of Dementia Friendly communities throughout Thurrock.
- The Better Care Fund has funded an Older Adult Wellbeing Service provided by North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT). This is a multi-disciplinary integrated approach to the care and support of older age adults including people living with dementia. The aim of the service is to support people to remain as independent as possible for as long as possible in their local communities and at home. This has proved to be very successful. The nurses within the team deliver Dementia Nursing support within our residential care homes and within the community.
- Diagnostic services are provided by Essex Partnership Trust (EPUT) and the pathway is now clear for referral post diagnosis to the Older Adult Well Being Service.
- The Dementia Crisis Support Team has been extended so that the team can support individuals for longer at home in their own communities.

- Further funding has been agreed through the Better Care Fund for the Alzheimer's Society to deliver information, advice and community support together with their memory service.
- St. Luke's are working with care homes regarding end of life planning to support people living with dementia to remain within the care home wherever possible.
- The Alzheimer's Society has undertaken a programme of Dementia Friends training across the Council and in local communities which has been well attended.
- Adult Social Care and EPUT's Older People Mental Health Team provide specialist support for people living with dementia and their carers together with a duty response to urgent situations.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 It is key that we retain the local focus to the delivery of the wider strategy to ensure good quality service and community responses in Thurrock.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 This report is to give an update to members regarding support for people with lived experience of dementia and their carers living in Thurrock and to ensure that members are aware that the priorities within the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Mental Health Strategy are being delivered and addressed.

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

- 5.1 As the detailed work progresses we plan to hold a series of consultation and engagement events in partnership with the voluntary sector and local communities to listen to the experience of those receiving services and to help shape and develop further community and care supports.

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

- 6.1 Dementia services and the programme of work the Dementia Alliance will deliver will support and enhance the well-being of individuals with lived experience of dementia and their carers and this will benefit our wider communities. The work will also ensure that we adhere to the Council's Charter for Older People which echoes many of the priorities within the Strategy to support independence, choice and ensure that people are treated with dignity and respect. The strategic approach is to highlight and ensure that support and care is fair and equitable and that people living with dementia have a voice in shaping their own services and support networks.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Jo Freeman**
Management Accountant Social Care

There are no current financial implications to the delivery of the strategy however there may need to be consideration of further investment. This will be done in collaboration with our Health colleagues and with the intention of allocation of funds through the Better Care Fund. Detailed business cases would need to be presented to the Integrated Commissioning Executives committee and adhere to the usual governance arrangements.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
Monitoring Officer

There are no direct legal implications at this stage but as the strategy continues to be implemented Legal Services is available to provide any necessary legal advice

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
Community Development and Equalities Manager

The delivery of the strategy will support wider communities within Thurrock to embrace and support people with lived experience of dementia to live well in their local community.

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

- Southend, Essex and Thurrock Dementia Strategy 2017- 2021

Report Author:

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