

05 August 2022		ITEM: 7
Health and Wellbeing Board		
Essex, Southend and Thurrock Dementia Strategy Refresh		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key	
Report of: Allison Hall (Service Manager – Commissioning, Adult Social Care) and Catherine Wilson (Strategic Lead – Commissioning and Procurement, Adult Social Care)		
Accountable Assistant Director: Les Billingham – Assistant Director, Adult Social Care and Community Development		
Accountable Director: Ian Wake – Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek agreement to the priorities and commitments contained within the Draft Southend, Essex and Thurrock Dementia Strategy – 2022 to 2026.

This is a refreshed strategy building on the previous Essex wide strategy that came to an end in 2021. The 2017-2021 strategy was developed in response to people with dementia and their carers wanting more joined-up working across organisations and localities.

The priorities and commitments have been developed with people across the wider Essex area.

Although, this wider partnership approach is valued by Thurrock – this report also details the plan to develop a separate Thurrock Implementation Plan (health and social care) to reflect the strengths and experiences of the communities we serve.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board agree the draft priorities and commitments contained in the refreshed Essex, Southend and Thurrock Dementia Strategy.**

1.2 That the Health and Wellbeing Board agree the next steps in the development of a Thurrock Implementation/Action Plan.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 In 2017, as a response to feedback about needing better joined up services for people with dementia and their carers, an overarching joint health and social care Southend, Essex and Thurrock Dementia strategy was agreed by all partners. A Thurrock (health and social care) specific implementation plan was also developed at this time which translated those high-level priorities/commitments into more meaningful localised/actions for people with dementia and their carers who live in Thurrock.
- 2.2 This strategy came to an end during the pandemic. Due to the constraints of the pandemic and the availability of staff who were undertaking other activities, there was a delay in refreshing this document.
- 2.3 In 2021, we started the consultation process across the wider Essex area, but due to the restrictions in place at the time and the variable nature of the pandemic, the engagement was limited to on-line. The consultation responses were collated by Essex Council on behalf of all partners.
- 2.4 The first consultation sought the views of people with dementia, their carers, professionals and partners about the existing priorities and whether they were still the right ones to enable people to live well with dementia. Because so much had changed during the pandemic, we also took the opportunity to try and understand the current situation for people with dementia and their carers and what the future might look like.
- 2.5 There was a large consensus on nine priorities at the end of this consultation. The second part of the consultation was launched to ascertain if the public agreed with the commitments from all organisations to deliver on those priorities. Again, there was a large consensus and this formed the basis of the draft refreshed Dementia Strategy.
- 2.6 Although we are committed to working with all partners across Essex to improve the lives of people with dementia and their carers, we have from the outset stated that Thurrock will again develop its own specific implementation/action plan.
- 2.7 As stated, due to the restrictions in place at the time, the Essex wide priorities and commitments were developed utilising on-line consultation methods. As many restrictions have now been lifted, we will carry out a more in-depth engagement process (Healthwatch will lead on our behalf) to turn those priorities and commitments into defined actions informed by people with dementia and their cares.
- 2.8 As in 2017, Thurrock's 'actions' will sit in a separate document that will be submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval and are not part of

the current document. We want to ensure that the implementation plan reflects the experiences of people living in Thurrock and the strengths and assets we have that are unique to our communities. As before, the implementation plan will be a joint health and social care document.

- 2.9 The government has recently announced its intention to publish a 10-year plan for Dementia that focusses on timely diagnosis (dealing with the backlog caused by the pandemic), explores how technology, medicine and science can reduce the numbers and severity of dementia and commits to boosting research.
- 2.10 It is expected that the 10-year plan will be published in time to include any new or additional priorities for the health and social care system within the Local Implementation Plan.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 People with dementia and their carers identified the need for a joined-up approach across health and social care in the wider Essex area. To provide context, the importance of this approach is evident in the recent launch of the Dementia Buddy scheme. As the board is aware, all 3 local authorities, health partners, Alzheimer's Society, police and fire service worked together to enable this initiative to be launched across organisational and geographical boundaries. This scheme could not support people with dementia if restricted to one locality.
- 3.2 As such, we recognised the importance of refreshing this partnership document.
- 3.3 Consideration was initially given to the inclusion of Thurrock's actions within the main document. However, we felt that it was important to keep that focus on the local area and to ensure that a more in-depth engagement was carried out with local people (as it became clearer that restrictions were being lifted and were likely to continue. It will also allow us to capture any additional priorities for the Governments 10 year plan for Dementia).

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The priorities and commitments contained in the refreshed strategy were informed by people with dementia and their carers. This strategy shows a commitment by all partners to work together to enable people to live well with dementia.
- 4.2 However, it is important that the people of Thurrock shape how those priorities will be delivered in their own communities. As such, a separate Thurrock (health and social care) Implementation Plan will be developed in partnership with people with dementia and their carers.

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

5.1 As stated in section 2, an on-line consultation was carried out in two stages. The first consultation ran from 15 February 2021 to 05 April 2021. The second part of the consultation ran between 13 May 2022 to 17 June 2022. Although Essex County Council collated the responses, this was advertised on Thurrock's Consultation Portal and we used local specialist services and networks to promote the opportunity.

5.2 If the Board agrees the draft strategy we will then commence (post summer holidays) with a meaningful engagement exercise to shape the Local Implementation plan. Thurrock Healthwatch will be undertaking this engagement on behalf of the Council to ensure impartiality if improvements are identified to either Council or Health funded/provided services.

5.3 This Local Implementation Plan will be shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board and Overview and Scrutiny for agreement.

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

6.1 The draft strategy and proposed implementation plan will particularly contribute to meeting the strategic priority; People – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay.

6.2 The aim of the strategy is to enable people to live well with Dementia and provide high quality services to both people with dementia and their carers in a community where they feel valued.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**
Strategic Lead – Corporate Finance

There are no significant financial implications contained within this document. The Thurrock Implementation Plan will have specific actions and will identify the funding required in order to implement the development.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **click this box once and type name of the officer who has verified the implications**
click this box once and type the job title of the officer who has verified the implications

There are currently no legal or procurement implications. This may change when the implementation plan has been developed.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**
Team Manager – Community Development and Equalities

The purpose of this refresh is to ensure we are meeting the needs of people with dementia and their carers post pandemic. Although the pandemic limited our forms of consultation, we are trying to counter this with an in-depth engagement exercise for the Thurrock specific Implementation Plan underpinned by the principles of the Collaborative Communities Framework (engagement; empowerment; equality). As such, this should result in improved outcomes for this vulnerable group of people.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, and Impact on Looked After Children

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):

- Southend, Essex and Thurrock Dementia Strategy 2017-2021
- Southend, Essex and Thurrock Dementia Strategy – Thurrock Implementation Plan (June 2018)



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9. Appendices to the report

- N/A

Report Author:

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