



**Health and Wellbeing Board
8 December 2016**

DEMENTIA STRATEGY 2017/2020

Responsible Officer

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1. Summary

- 1.1. The dementia journey is distressing for those involved, the costs associated with dementia are significant and age is the biggest risk factor in developing the condition. Shropshire has a rapidly aging population and there is insufficient infrastructure to enable people to *live* with the condition as they otherwise may be able. Failure to pro-actively address this issue will likely result in significant systemic failure demand with an associated drastic systemic increase in disease management costs. This collaboratively produced strategy sets out aims that will help address this situation.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board endorse this Strategy

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

(NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

- 3.1. The implications of refraining from taking any pro-active action towards enabling people to live better with dementia will have negative consequences. People with dementia will continue to require higher levels of support than may otherwise be the case, and as demand grows, this will have major ramifications for the health economy. Dementia-driven demand is difficult to detect, present NHS payment and performance monitoring systems collect information on primary reasons for acute care, whilst existing systems within adult social care are not able to identify the numbers of people with dementia absorbing local resources. This means that data can mislead decision makers as to the perceived magnitude of the condition.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. There may be some funding issues surrounding the ability to implement some of these aims, although the consequences of refraining from attempting to achieve them are thought to be grave.

5. Background

- 5.1. Dementia is a condition that impacts not only on the person diagnosed, but the people with whom they share their lives. Age, the biggest associated risk factor for people developing the condition, means that for Shropshire, dementia is likely to have a huge impact upon the people living in our county over the coming years. It is a condition that is reported to cost the health economy significantly more than any other illness group with an estimated 53% of that cost being absorbed by family carers. Shropshire has an ageing population; it is thought that by 2031, South Shropshire will be among the three oldest populations across England and Wales. This means that by this time, should current prevalence apply, we will have around 5,900 people over the age of 65 living with the condition within the county. Current prevalence for this age group is around 4,300, there are currently around 3,000 people diagnosed, with a further 80 people below that age of 65 diagnosed with dementia.
- 5.2. A number of innovations to promote a positive lived experience of dementia have been established over recent years, an overview of these can be seen on page 17 of the strategy document. However recent engagement work has shown a paucity of support for people living with dementia during the early stages of the journey. It is thought that this has led to reluctance among primary care physicians to diagnose people with the condition. Having a diagnosis early is thought to be important in enabling people to develop strategies that can promote independence, in effect enabling them to *live* with the condition for longer. This strategy document sets out ways in which we as a county can promote early diagnosis, provide better support post diagnosis, support community based treatment, and promote early discharge for when acute admission cannot be avoided. It is not a complete answer to the issues faced by people living with the condition, although we believe that achieving these aims would represent the correct direction of travel.
- 5.3. If we are able to achieve the following, we are likely to reduce the demand placed upon adult social care relative to prevalence, this will in turn have a positive impact upon NHS spend:
- Diagnose people with dementia earlier.
 - Provide guidance that is person centred to extend the time they are able to *live* with the condition.
 - Support carers better in their caring role.
 - Cultivate communities to enable them to be accessible for people with dementia, growing locally available community-grown support options.

If we are able to do the following we are likely to reduce the demand seen in terms of unplanned admissions for people with dementia:

- Provide community support options that address both physical illness, and the complex behaviours that can emerge as a consequence of being physically unwell for people with dementia.
- Provide an enhanced level of discharge planning for people with dementia admitted to hospital which commences at the point of admission.

6. Additional Information

- 6.1. This document has been produced in collaboration; stakeholder buy-in is assured through the joint ownership that this document represents.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1. This document represents a collaboratively produced solution to a collaboratively identified problem. We (The Health Economy Dementia Steering Group) believe that the direction of travel outlined within these pages is correct and must be endorsed to enable strategy to be put into action.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. (2009). Living well with dementia: A National Dementia Strategy. *Department of Health*. [Online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/168220/dh_094051.pdf [Accessed 11th October 2016].

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. (2012). Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia – Delivering major improvements in dementia care and research by 2015. *Department of Health*. [Online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/215101/dh_133176.pdf [Accessed 10th October 2016].

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. (2015). Prime Minister's challenge on dementia 2020. *Department of Health*. [Online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/414344/pm-dementia2020.pdf [Accessed 11th October 2016].

HEALTH ECONOMICS RESEARCH CENTRE. (2010). Dementia 2010 – The economic burden of dementia and associated research funding in the United Kingdom. *Alzheimer's Research Trust*. [Online] Available at: <http://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Dementia2010Full.pdf> [Accessed 10th October 2016].

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Local Member

Appendices