

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Public Question Sheet

<p>HWBB Date: Shropshire HWBB 14th September, 2017</p>	<p>Member of the Public:</p> <p>Cathy Bowler, Operations Manager, Alzheimer's Society and Chair Health Economy Steering Group for Dementia</p>
<p>Question (s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much funding will be released to roll out the Dementia Companions across the county? • What are the Timescales for releasing the necessary funding for the Dementia Companions? • If the funding is to be released over a period of time, how will commissioners ensure that the service grows so that there is a) fair and equitable coverage across Shropshire and the service grows and b) there is an effective and efficient service without the need to frequently restructure as a result of employing part time workers added at different times over the strategy period 	
<p>HWBB Response:</p> <p>Despite our challenging financial position, Dementia companions are being commissioned in pilot form to run from November 2017 until the end of 2018/19. This pilot will be provided across two sites, one in Oswestry and the other in the Ludlow area. In terms of how much funding will be released and made available across the next two years, exact figures and timescales have not yet been established, largely due to the multi-agency aspect of the funding arrangements.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dementia Companions are a service expected to yield system-wide innovation and savings, this means that the public, the Local Authority and the NHS are all expected to benefit. As such, it is expected that some of the investment for provision of this service will come from the Local Authority, not least of all due to the likelihood that they will benefit from earlier cost savings. 2. The Dementia Strategy 2017/20 has built in goals to avoid acute hospital admissions and reduce the length of stay, the aim being to reduce system costs. Some of these savings are expected to be invested into the Dementia Companions service. The service developments required to realise these goals are presently being negotiated with the provider, although agreement upon provision has not yet been reached. 3. Shropshire CCG currently invests the majority of funding for the provision of dementia services with a single provider. We are in negotiations with this provider to explore provision of Dementia Companions within the existing contract, although no agreement has yet been reached. 	<p>Other comments:</p>

The Dementia Strategy is expected to be fully-realised by 2020, subject to system-wide cooperation and support. As such, the provision of finite quantitative information is not possible at this time.

With regards to the qualitative queries surrounding **fair and equitable coverage** across the county, the roll-out of Dementia Companions will be as fair and equitable as the geography of the county permits. This has been reflected in the nature of the sites of the pilots, by design these are not necessarily Shrewsbury-centric locations, although the next site will need to be in the Shrewsbury area to enable a reasonable geographical spread.

Ensuring **effective and efficient service** delivery without the need to restructure and employ part-time workers is a system-wide ambition.

This will be achieved where possible through creation of substantive posts using existing staff. The actual employment decisions made by the provider however will be theirs to make so long as they are able to demonstrate consistent performance against the contract specification.