

To: Shropshire Health & Wellbeing Board

From: Cathy Bowler, Operations Manager, Alzheimer's Society and Chair Health Economy Steering Group for Dementia

George Rook, Person living with dementia and Chair Shropshire Telford & Wrekin Dementia Action Alliance and Member of the Health Economy Steering Group for Dementia

Fiona Hopkins, Carer of a person living with dementia and Member of the Health Economy Steering Group for Dementia

Date: 3 August 2017

Re: **Implementation of the 2017 – 2020 Dementia Strategy for Shropshire**

Our interest in the Dementia Strategy is twofold:

- We are members of the Health Economy Steering Group for Dementia – whose terms of reference include supporting the development and implementation of the dementia strategies for both Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin
- Our concern that people affected by dementia in Shropshire are neither getting the post diagnostic support in Shropshire that they need now, nor are there sufficient steps being made to provide assurance that they will get what they have asked for and should expect by the end of the Strategy period. In contrast, significant steps have recently been made in Telford & Wrekin

Dementia Strategy 2017 – 2020: Progress to Date:

- The minutes of the December 2016 H&W Board meeting state:

Draft Dementia Strategy

Peter Downer, Dementia Commissioner, introduced and amplified a report, copy attached to the signed minutes, on the Dementia Strategy for 2017/2020; a product of collaboration, which was welcomed by the Board as an excellent piece of work.

RESOLVED: That the Strategy be endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board

- Dementia Strategy is also referred to in the STP January Update (slide 53)

Dementia Companions

- The Strategy will provide locally branded Dementia Support Workers which will be known as Dementia Companions to provide post diagnostic support.
- This support will be normalized as part of the dementia pathway, and providing sufficient capacity to ensure that all 3,297 diagnosed with dementia and their carers are supported. This is a significant shift from the less than 10% that are currently supported each year.
- Additional resource has recently been confirmed, but has yet to be released, for two part-time Dementia Companions to work specifically in Oswestry and Ludlow who will

work alongside multi-disciplinary teams in those towns – this is welcomed, but is the only sign of Strategy implementation to date.

Our questions:

During the period 2017 – 2020:

- 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 as 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?

We recognise that Shropshire CCG and Shropshire Council may not have the immediate answers to these questions. We would be very happy to meet with representatives of both who sit on the Health & Wellbeing Board to discuss this further if this would help.