



Committee and Date
Health & Wellbeing Board
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9.30 am

Item
9
Public

DEMENTIA STRATEGY UPDATE

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1. Summary

- 1.1 Dementia is a priority identified at a national and local level and supported by statistical evidence and stakeholder feedback. Shropshire has a higher than national average prevalence of dementia, however, despite recent improvements, diagnosis rates remain lower than is desirable.
- 1.2 There are wide range of services to support people with dementia and their families currently in operation or under development and the strategy is an opportunity to coordinate these more effectively.
- 1.3 A multi agency steering group, including providers and stakeholders, is now in place to develop the Dementia Strategy and will report to the Board on a quarterly basis.
- 1.4 Feedback from the Health and Wellbeing Stakeholder event held in January has helped to shape the priorities for the developing strategy, and engagement will be on-going as the strategy develops.

2. Recommendation

- A. That the process for developing the strategy is approved and an update brought to the July Board meeting, with a particular focus on 'dementia friendly communities'.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment identifies the ageing population as a key priority area and within that an expected increase in the prevalence of dementia. Under-diagnosis of the condition means that many people do not receive the support they need at an early stage and therefore opportunities

to slow the progression of the disease are not always realised. Early diagnosis and intervention is known to slow the progression in some forms of dementia, enabling people to remain in their own homes and communities, and maintain a better quality of life for longer.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications in relation to developing the strategy.

5. Background

5.1 Dementia has been identified as one of the priorities at national level and in the Shropshire Health & Well-being Board Strategy. Shropshire has a population profile which identifies an older population than the England average. This includes a higher than average dementia prevalence. The numbers of people with dementia currently is estimated to be approximately 4,500. The numbers of people with a diagnosis and on a register with their GP practice is 2021 (QOF data, January 2012). This demonstrates that there is a current diagnosis rate of 42%. This is an overall ranking of 124 where 1 is the highest and 178 is the lowest (Alzheimers Society, Mapping the Dementia Gap 2012). There has been an increase in diagnosis rates of 2.4% from 2011 data.

5.2 Current services commissioned by the CCG include the Memory service; in-patient beds and the development of Dementia Home Treatment Teams which are provided by South Staffs & Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust; Dementia support workers and dementia cafes/support groups provided by the Alzheimers Society; and Home from Hospital pilot service in the North and Shrewsbury particularly aimed at people with Dementia provided by the Red Cross.

5.3 There are other services under development e.g. Shared Lives respite service development within the Local Authority services; and funding has been identified and a business case is currently being developed for the introduction of Admiral Nurses across Shropshire.

5.4 There is also a health and social care economy wide steering group which is currently being reviewed and will be accountable to the Health and Wellbeing Board. This is Commissioner led and includes providers, voluntary sector, patient/carer representation, Public Health, Social care representatives from across both Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. The terms of reference, membership and purpose of the group are currently under review.

6.0 Strategy Development

6.1 The dementia strategy was originally part of the Mental Health Strategy but it has now been recognised that there needs to be a stand-alone joint health and social care strategy which recognises the importance that this strategy will have in improving dementia care across Shropshire. It is anticipated that the strategy will include the demographic profile, identified needs and

priorities and an action plan with responsibilities and timescales for action and reporting to ensure the identified outcomes are met and are in line with the NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) quality standards and social care standards are met.

6.2 It is intended that the strategy will be developed in partnership with Shropshire Health and Wellbeing Board; patients, carers and the public; voluntary sector agencies; providers of services and other stakeholders such as the Older Peoples' Partnership Board, Shropshire Older Peoples Assembly and Carers Partnership Board amongst others, to ensure a wide range of opinion is sought and views fed in to the development of the final strategy. Included in the strategy/action plan will be the outcomes from the Health and Wellbeing Board event held in January where the identified priorities for dementia were:

- Awareness raising from a public health perspective
- Availability of information about dementia at first point of contact (in Primary Care)
- Early diagnosis and intervention

6.3 The drivers for improving dementia care in Shropshire to be developed as part of the strategy, following on from the three priorities identified above may include:

- Information following diagnosis and signposting to other agencies that can provide information and practical support
- Carers assessment, on-going support and access to respite care
- Social interventions to maintain independence for as long as possible including access to peer support in a variety of settings
- Training and education for professionals and the public to improve awareness of dementia and to ensure that professionals across all settings including domiciliary, residential and health care settings have the skills required to provide people with appropriate care
- Reducing the use of anti-psychotics
- Access to care in community settings and close to home whenever possible during periods of ill-health
- Development of a care pathway which covers all elements of care
- Use of assistive technology to maintain independence

6.4 A key aspect of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy approach to dementia is the concept of 'dementia friendly communities' – places where there is greater awareness and understanding of dementia; where people will feel more able to ask for support; and where remaining independent and connected to local communities will be supported. These principles underpin the Dementia Strategy development and it is proposed to have a fuller discussion at a future Board meeting about what 'dementia friendly' looks like in Shropshire, in order to shape the strategy further.

6.5 A high level action plan based on the Quality Standards (in conjunction with Telford & Wrekin) will be developed as part of the strategy and underpinned

by action plans from commissioned providers who will be expected to provide regular updates on progress. It is expected that delivery of the strategy will be overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

- 6.6 It should be noted by the Board that Shropshire CCG had originally identified 'Estimated diagnosis rate for people with dementia' as one of the local outcome indicators that would form part of our quality premium payment. This was agreed and supported by the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 13th March 2013. However, Commissioners have since been advised by the Local Area Team that because the same measure forms part of the national premium payment it cannot be used as a local indicator.

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

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Ann Hartley

Local Member

All

Appendices

None