

Dementia Taskgroup

Adult Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 25th April 2017

Author:	Consultant in Public Health
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 The Adult Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed in their 2015/16 to undertake a review of Dementia. A Task Group of five Overview and Scrutiny Committee members was established, with support from the Consultant in Public Health who leads on dementia and the Public Health Programme Support Officer.
- 1.2 At its meeting on the 18th June 2015, the Committee agreed that the group would look at the partnership arrangements and whether the health journey was working for the patient. Councillors Bob and Julie Wright, Alan Bishop and Steph Excell, Caryl Sydney- Smith and Carol Burns (Healthwatch) agreed to volunteer for this task group. In March 2016, it was agreed that the group would continue for a second year with a further focus on developing Swindon as a dementia friendly town and prevention.
- 1.3 Attached is a report produced by Councillor Wright as Chair providing an overview of the work of the taskgroup in year 2 and the final recommendations.
- 1.4 Swindon has a Dementia Strategy which contributes to delivering the Council's Vision and in particular priority four: help people to help themselves while always protecting our most vulnerable children and adults.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Discuss the attached report and the recommendations of the taskgroup.

3. Detail

- 3.1 It is estimated that around 2300 people in Swindon are living with dementia. Age is one of the greatest risk factors and as more people live into their 80's and 90's, the number of people with dementia is likely to increase. Dementia is an umbrella term covering different types including Alzheimer's disease and Vascular Dementia. Dementias cause damage to the brain resulting in a progressive decline in more than one area of function, including memory, reasoning, communication skills and the skills needed to carry out daily activities.

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It affects people differently depending on the type of dementia, stage of illness and the individual affected.

- 3.2 There is no current cure but some evidence that a healthy lifestyle (being active, a good diet, not / stopping smoking) can reduce the risk of dementia. For people living with dementia, an environment that supports maintaining independence, understanding of the disease in the community, and prompt clinical intervention can all enhance quality of life.
- 3.3 In Swindon, the Swindon Dementia Steering Group (DSG) was established to oversee the implementation of the Swindon Dementia JSNA and Dementia Strategy 2014-2019 (<http://www.swindonjsna.co.uk/dna/dementia-needs-assessment>). It is a multi-agency group which meets quarterly with current membership including Swindon Borough Council (Public Health, Housing and Social Care), NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group, Swindon Carers Association, Great Western Hospital, Alzheimer's Society, Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership, Swindon Dementia Action Alliance, and Wiltshire Police Service.
- 3.4 The Swindon Dementia Strategy reflects priorities ranging from prevention, workforce training, prompt diagnosis, support and care, and end of life. Some examples of recent work include over 350 Council staff trained as dementia friends, improvements in diagnosis waiting times, dementia advisor service and side by side project established by the Alzheimer's Society, and work to update information on dementia on My Care My Support.
- 3.5 The role of the Scrutiny Taskgroup this year was to look at how Swindon Borough Council could contribute to Swindon becoming a Dementia Friendly Town and what Lifestyle decisions or types of environments contribute to Dementia and what changes could be of benefit.
- 3.6 Recommendations are:
 - 3.6.1 Produce a simple do/don'ts list for the public based on NICE guidelines for dementia prevention with useful contacts
 - 3.6.2 Produce a public health leaflet on non-communicable diseases which show the connection between lifestyle and the likelihood of developing Dementia
 - 3.6.3 Promote a holistic approach by addressing whole body health and non-communicable diseases together assisted by a 'healthy body healthy mind' campaign.
 - 3.6.4 Promote the clean Air Acts and Healthy Environment enforcement

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- 3.6.5 Rollout non-communicable diseases training for all members and council staff.
 - 3.6.6 Review and scrutinise the services and support which is available for people caring for those with dementia
 - 3.6.7 Raise awareness of Dementia for young people via schools and other groups.
 - 3.6.8 Extend the Homeline Services to cover public areas.
 - 3.6.9 Progress the outcomes of the 2017 Healthwatch Ageing Well in a Dementia Friendly Swindon conference.
 - 3.6.10 Produce a set of agreed goals with the Dementia Alliance to help develop a Dementia Friendly Swindon
 - 3.6.11 Produce a Dementia Friendly Swindon Dashboard and Scrutinise
 - 3.6.12 Request a report for Scrutiny of the benefits of early Lifestyle intervention.
 - 3.6.13 Use the Council Scrutiny role with Equalities/Dementia representatives to verify the course of actions taken by the council helps deliver a Dementia Friendly Place and what can be improved upon.
- 3.7 Detail outlining the objectives, work and recommendations from the group is provided in the attached report by Councillor Wright as Chair of the group.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 To not agree the report.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

There may be some financial or procurement implications arising as a direct result of this report which will need to be discussed further.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.1 Section 21 of the Local Government Act requires every local authority to establish an overview and scrutiny function to hold the Executive to account, undertake policy development and review, monitor and improve performance.

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All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.2 The recommendations in this report should have a positive impact on the health of people in Swindon.

Impact Assessment

- 5.3 None. However work in this area is likely to have a positive impact on the quality of life of people with dementia and address health inequalities.

Risk Management

- 5.4 None

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) have not yet been consulted. If the report is agreed at Scrutiny Committee, any resulting report to take forward the recommendations will be reviewed by the Consultees listed.

7. Background Papers

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - Dementia Task Group Report.
- 8.2 Appendix 2 – Points from Swindon Dementia Strategy 2014- 19.