

Report to the Newcastle Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

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Dementia Care across North Staffordshire



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Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the work that is taking place within both health and social care, for people living with dementia, including their families/carers, living in Newcastle under Lyme and Staffordshire Moorlands. The report includes some background information in terms of what dementia is, the pathway of care that people should experience and the work that we are doing across Staffordshire County Council and North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group in order to improve outcomes across the population.

Background

The commissioning managers at Staffordshire County Council and North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group work closely together in order to deliver the dementia strategy, with support from a dedicated clinical lead. In order to ensure equity across Northern Staffordshire there is close partnership working with colleagues from Stoke on Trent CCG and the Council. . A joint health and social care strategy for Dementia was produced in 2012 which came to an end in March 2015, therefore commissioners are now in the process of developing a new plan for Dementia Services in North Staffordshire. Engagement with provider organisations, people living with dementia and carers began in September this year and will continue until the end of November, in order to help commissioners identify priorities for the next 4 years.

In terms of prevalence, we believe there to be over 2,800 people living with some form of dementia across North Staffordshire (excluding Stoke on Trent), and currently, roughly 71% of those have a formal diagnosis. The majority of people living with dementia are over the age of 65 and prevalence increases with age, however numbers of people with young onset dementia are also increasing, and

services need to be commissioned to be tailored and personalised for people because everyone's experience of dementia is individual.

Questions to be Addressed

How would the scrutiny committee wish to input into and support the engagement process and development of the new dementia plan for North Staffordshire?

Is there any additional information that the committee would wish to receive in terms of commissioning for dementia services or delivery of the dementia pathway?

What priorities does the committee identify for supporting people to live well with dementia?

Would the scrutiny committee be interested in supporting Newcastle Borough Council to become a member of the Dementia Action Alliance, and attend a dementia friends session?

Outcomes

Much of the work over the last 12 months has been to raise awareness amongst professionals and increase dementia diagnosis rates in line with the Prime Ministers National ambition. The CCG has to report on this nationally and diagnosis rates have increased from 40% to 71% in the last 12 months.

It has been proposed that another health and social care national indicator to measure and monitor that people with dementia are supported to live well will be developed for 2016/17.

There is a great deal of work taking place towards the dementia agenda from commissioners at the county council as well as the clinical commissioning group, as part of the wider dementia strategy. The overall aim is to support people living with dementia and their families, to achieve positive outcomes and have the information they need at the right time, in order to live well at home for as long as they wish to.

Supporting Information

The Alzheimer's Society describes the word dementia as *"a set of symptoms that may include memory loss and difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or language. A person with dementia may also experience changes in their mood or behaviour."*

Dementia is caused when the brain is damaged by diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease or a series of strokes. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia but not all dementia is due to Alzheimer's. The specific symptoms that someone with dementia experiences will depend on the parts of the brain that are damaged and the disease that is causing the dementia.

The Dementia UK report (2007) which was recently updated in 2012, predicts that roughly two thirds of people living with dementia are living at home, with the remaining one third residing in some form of long term care such as a residential or nursing home. The report also predicts that roughly 80% of those people residing in a care or nursing home setting, will have some form of dementia either diagnosed or undiagnosed.

The dementia pathway for North Staffordshire typically consists of the following steps/stages:

- GP input (pre assessment) and potential onward referral to the memory assessment and diagnostic service
- The memory services (which are provided by North Staffordshire Combined healthcare Trust) which is made up of community psychiatric nurses, supported by a consultant psychiatrist, carry out in depth assessments and tests in order to determine a diagnosis
- If a person is diagnosed with some form of dementia, then they may possibly be prescribed medication and will then have the chance to be referred onto the Dementia Advisory Service
- The Dementia advisory service is provided by Approach Staffordshire which is a local voluntary sector organisations based in Stoke on Trent. A person would be assigned with a dementia advisor who would then offer to visit the person/family at home in order to discuss what information or support is needed, and help them to access this.
- Alongside this, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare Trust provide a range of other community services which help people with dementia to remain at home, including the community mental health team and community outreach teams.
- In order to support people with social care needs as well as health needs, Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Partnership Trust provide support for people in the community via Integrated Local Care Teams, including social workers and social care assessors.
- Other commissioned services include the Approach Carer Cafes which provide peer support and a social environment for carers of people living with dementia; and a specialist dementia advocacy service provided by the Beth Johnson Foundation.
- The county council also commissions specialist day opportunities for people with dementia and other complex conditions, which are also provided by Approach. Additional social care support for people living with dementia includes domiciliary care, and respite beds for people with high level needs.
- There are also a number of other non-commissioned services provided by local voluntary sector organisations such as singing for the brain provided by the Alzheimer's Society and carer groups provided by North Staffs Carers Association, to name a few.

University Hospital North Midlands also has a dementia steering group which includes a number of stakeholders, led by Dr Marilyn Brown, in order to review and improve upon the pathway of care and patient experience for people living with dementia that access Royal Stoke Hospital. Examples include providing training for their staff, having dementia champions and implementing the 'butterfly scheme' in order to improve awareness and recognition of dementia, whilst also providing personalised care.

Work is ongoing to support professionals to have increased awareness and knowledge of dementia, whilst also considering the need to ensure that our local communities are set up to support their residents which may be living with dementia. Both Staffordshire County Council and Stoke City Council lead an initiative called 'Dementia friendly communities' which is a national initiative driven by the Dementia Action Alliance in association with the Alzheimer's Society.

A Staffordshire wide action alliance has been established which meets on a regular basis and involves all organisations across the county that have signed up to become dementia friendly. Across the county we also have a large number of dementia champions and dementia friends. A dementia friend is someone that has attended a dementia friends session which is delivered by a trained champion, and helps to raise people's awareness and inform them of what dementia is and how it can affect people. Anyone can become a dementia friend and at the end of the free session, they are given a small pin badge which features the 'forgot me not' blue flower as a recognisable symbol.

Work is beginning in Audley to create a dementia friendly community including Newcastle Borough Council and others associated with the Local Action Partnership.

In terms of governance for the work being carried out on Dementia, we have a joint North Staffs and Stoke on Trent Dementia Steering Group which meets every couple of months and is attended by representatives from across the health economy including commissioners, providers, voluntary sector organisations and clinicians. Previously we also had representatives for people living with dementia and carers, however due to personal circumstances they have been unable to be part of the group and so we are looking into other ways that we can ensure ongoing engagement with people as part of the work that we do.

From a commissioning point of view, we also have an Older People's Mental Health Service Delivery Group established which looks at operational delivery of dementia services. We also have a dementia commissioners meeting, both meetings take place on a monthly basis and act as a forum for discussing important issues, agreeing actions and monitoring progress.

Invited Partners/Stakeholders/Residents

- Mark Hewitt, District Commissioning Lead (Newcastle), Staffordshire County Council
- Nicola Bucknall, Commissioning Manager, North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Constraints

Within Staffordshire County Council, funding for dementia specific services comes from a central care budget however this fund is very limited and all current funding is tied up in existing contracts for voluntary sector run services. North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group fund the majority of current services through a block contract with North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare Trust and the voluntary sector.

Conclusions

To summarise, there is dedicated resource in terms of officer time across health and social care in order to create, improve upon and sustain a suitable pathway of care for people with dementia. We recognise that whilst services have improved over years, there is still a great deal more that needs to be done and ongoing discussions with people living with dementia confirms this to be true. Our approach is very much one of working together and of partnership with those organisations that deliver care to people, and we will continue to do the best with the resource that we have and plan for the future, in order to improve outcomes for the people of North Staffordshire.

Relevant Portfolio Holder(s)

Councillor Colin Eastwood

Local Ward Member (if applicable)

All

Background Materials

Draft North Staffordshire Dementia Plan – Executive summary which is currently out to consultation

Appendices

NA