

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel
MEETING DATE:	Friday 20 th September 2013
TITLE:	Update on Dementia
WARD:	ALL
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: No attachments	

1. THE ISSUE

To provide the Panel with an update on improving local services for people with dementia.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to note this update and consider when it would wish to receive a further update.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to this update report.

4. THE REPORT

The Panel last received an update report in November 2011. This report therefore provides an update on progress made locally since then.

Following the publication of the National Dementia Strategy – *Living Well with Dementia* (NDS) in February 2009, the Prime Minister’s Dementia Challenge was published in March 2012. This identified three key areas:

- Driving further improvements in health and care including timely diagnosis and improved care in hospital and in the community;
- Creating dementia friendly communities that understand how to help and;
- Better research to improve treatments for people with dementia and if possible, prevent it from occurring in the first place or at least slowing it from progressing beyond a very early phase.

An annual report was published in May 2013 by Department of Health setting out the progress made against the Prime Minister’s Challenge and the aims for 2015.

Local Priorities

Improving services for people with dementia and their carers remains a priority for the CCG and the Health & Wellbeing Board as set out in the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

BaNES Dementia Care Pathway Group continues to meet on a bimonthly basis to take forward the local priorities which are as follows:

- Improving diagnosis rates
- Improving post-diagnostic support in the community
- Improving care in hospitals
- Improving standards in care homes & domiciliary care
- Better information for people with dementia & their carers
- Supporting people with dementia at end of life
- Reducing use of antipsychotics
- Support the development of dementia friendly communities
- Increase availability of dementia nursing home beds

Progress Made to Date

Since the last update, the following progress has been made:

Memory assessment pathway for primary care – the pathway has been reviewed and revised to ensure that GPs know who and where to refer patients to ensure they receive a timely diagnosis. Diagnosis rates in BaNES were below the South West average and although this might be partly to do with the coding of patients in primary care, there is clearly room for improving them. The CCG has set a target of reaching 53.5% by the end of 2013/14 and target of 60% by the end of 2014/15. Currently the rate is around 46%. A number of dementia awareness sessions were also held at the Research Institute for the Care of the Elderly (RICE) for GP practice staff including administrative staff. The sessions covered dementia, diagnosis and signs to look for; patients scenarios and; information about RICE and the memory clinic experience.

Improving diagnostic support in the community – this was identified as a local gap in service provision and although the Alzheimer's Society currently provides a community development worker to support people with dementia and their carers in BaNES, the pathway group recognised the need to expand this offer. As a result funding was secured from the CCG to develop this service and it is currently out to tender. Dementia cafes and singing for the brain is offered in various locations in BaNES with other community developments underway to support people with dementia and their carers.

Improving care in hospitals – national funding for pilot projects to improve care environments was made available earlier this year and the RUH was successful in its application for capital investment to refurbish Combe Ward, one of their wards in the older people's unit. Building work has started and is due to be completed in September 2013. The redevelopment will also include a garden area for patients.

Better information for people with dementia and their carers – providing accurate and timely information has been a major focus of the pathway group. Guideposts Trust has supported and developed a dementia web which provides a range of information on-line from diagnosis through to end of life care. They also provide a 24/7 helpline and produced an 'after diagnosis' handy guide which is BaNES specific. As well as this development, the Council has updated and produced the new older people's directory and care services directory.

Supporting people with dementia at end of life – Dorothy House provided three two day dementia training courses for registered practitioners and care homes.

Primary care audit of use of antipsychotic medicines – a local audit of the use of antipsychotics in primary care was initially carried out in June 2011, the results of which showed that 91 patients over the age of 65 were on antipsychotic drug (10.5%). A follow up audit in January 2012 showed that this had reduced to 77 patients (7.9%). Data suggests from across the South West that less than 10% is achievable.

Dementia friendly communities – A dementia friendly community is one that shows a high level of public awareness and understanding so that people with dementia and their carers are encouraged to seek help and are supported by their community. On 17th April 2013, Cllr Simon Allen, Cabinet Member and Chair of Health & Well-being Board launched an exciting initiative to put BaNES at the forefront of care for people with dementia. A number of key leaders in the field of dementia in BaNES came together under the chairmanship of Simon Knighton from Sirona Care & Health to consider how to make this a reality. Following the first meeting a virtual forum was created by Cllr Allen to encourage everyone to share their thoughts and ideas through the Freedcamp portal as well as the creation of a newsletter to keep everyone informed of developments.

Dementia nursing home beds – discussions with developers to stimulate interest in sites to increase the number of dementia nursing homes continues. To date, we have identified three potential development partners and are engaged in discussions about four potential sites. Work also continues with existing dementia nursing homes in BaNES to increase the availability of complex dementia care (ie where clients have significant elements of behaviour that requires specialist care and/or a large element of physical nursing care due to disease progression).

Research – BaNES is involved in a six centre research trial 'Goal-Oriented Cognitive Rehabilitation in Early-Stage Alzheimer's Disease' (GREAT) which is being led by RICE. This is a multi-centre single-blind randomised controlled three year trial which started earlier this year. This will involve 480 mild dementia patients being recruited and randomised to a cognitive rehabilitation therapy or not with the aim of establishing whether cognitive rehabilitation is successful.

Dementia Challenge Fund Projects

The NHS South of England Dementia Challenge Fund was launched in 2012 in response the PM's Challenge with the aim of funding pilot projects for 12 months. Five applications were submitted via the CCG, with one submitted jointly with Wiltshire CCG. Three of the bids were successful and although the other two were not successful, the CCG recognised the value of implementing them and therefore agreed to fund them on a 12 month non-recurring basis. The successful bids were as follows and totalled £455k:

- Sirona Care & Health: Technology Libraries
- RUH CQUIN PLUS: Integrating Hospital & Community Care Pathways
- Curo: Rural Independent Living Support Service

The other two bids were as follows and totalled £137k:

- The Carers' Centre & Age UK B&NES: Home from Hospital
- Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust (AWP): Care Home Support & Assessment Service

Technology Libraries – Sirona Care & Health is working with a number of partners including Bath Institute of Medical Engineering to offer technology to support people with dementia to maintain independence. The launch of the library was held on 3rd April 2013 and an independent website went live on 12th July 2013 to show case the products available (<http://memorytechnologylibrary.co.uk>).

Integrating Hospital & Community Care Pathways – this project is aimed at improving the pathway between the hospital and community services as well as expanding the mental health liaison service. Three dementia co-ordinators are now in post and working on the wards. The older adults' mental health liaison team has moved to seven day working mid-July 2013.

Rural Independent Living Support Service – Curo is working with people in rural areas to achieve timely diagnosis of dementia. A rural dementia co-ordinator has been appointed who at the beginning of February 2013 organised two community events to raise awareness of dementia. The co-ordinator is working in partnership with the Village Agents in the Chew Valley area. A memory café has also been established in Peasedown St John.

Home from Hospital – The Carers' Centre & Age UK's project is working very closely with the RUH project to support people with dementia when returning home. A discharge liaison co-ordinator has been appointed for the project and is available Monday to Friday at the RUH who works closely with the carers' officer. Greeting cards have been produced and designed to leave with patients when visiting the wards for the carers to be contacted by either the discharge liaison co-ordinator or the carers' officer.

Care Home Support & Assessment Service – AWP has put in place a new service providing advice, education, training and information to care home staff and carers on how they can support people with dementia. An experienced occupational therapist with teaching experience from AWP is leading on this project and has been working with Dorothy House on end of life care.

Next Steps

The key next steps are as follows:

- Subject to the tender process, the mobilisation of the community dementia support worker should begin later this year.
- The pathway group will complete a self-assessment against the NICE quality standards – Supporting People to Live Well with Dementia – which were published earlier this year. The quality standards apply to all social care settings and services working with and caring for people with dementia.
- The dementia challenge fund projects are in the process of being evaluated. Once the evaluation has been completed a report will be presented to the CCG to inform decision making about the on-going commissioning and recurring funding of these services in 2014/15.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

A risk assessment is not necessary in respect of this update report.

6. EQUALITIES

An equalities impact assessment is not warranted in respect of this update report.

7. CONSULTATION

The B&NES Dementia Care Pathway Group has been the vehicle for engaging and consulting on the dementia action plan. The group includes the following organisations:

Alzheimer's Society
Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust (AWP)
Age UK B&NES
Curo Housing
Dorothy House Hospice
Guideposts Trust
Research Institute for the Care of Older People (RICE)
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust (RUH)
Sirona Care & Health C.I.C
Support for People with Alzheimer's (Peggy Dodd)
Somerset Care & Repair
The Carers Centre

8. ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

Not relevant.

9. ADVICE SOUGHT

It wasn't necessary to seek advice from either the Council's Monitoring Officer (Council Solicitor) or the Section 151 Officer (Strategic Director – Resources & Support Services) on the contents of this update report.

Contact person	Corinne Edwards, Senior Commissioning Manager for Unplanned Care & Long Term Conditions, NHS BaNES CCG, Tel: 831868
Background papers	National Dementia Strategy, Department of Health, February 2009 Prime Minister's Dementia Challenge, March 2012 and subsequent annual reports in 2012 and 2013
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	