

Dementia

Current B&NES initiatives - conversation Cllr Allen Cabinet Member for Wellbeing some months back about declaring B&NES a dementia friendly area.

Cllr Allen said: "We're committed to raising awareness of dementia and its effects."

There is a real need to do this

- There were 1,146 people in 2012/13 (financial year) registered as having dementia in GP practises in Bath and North East Somerset, a rate of 0.6% of the registered population.
- 22% of death certifications in B&NES mention dementia or a related condition as opposed to national levels of 17.3%.
- Dementia cases are expected to increase by 23% for females and 43% for males between 2010 and 2025 in B&NES (1916 females, 1225 males)

Approached by residents, issue of relatives moved into the area so family can provide care and support but rent privately which can't afford.

Issue across B&NES.

B&NES website

Key Facts

The term 'dementia' describes a set of symptoms that include loss of memory, mood changes, and problems with communication and reasoning. There are many types of dementia; the most common are Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia.

Healthy lifestyles

Aerobic physical activities which improve heart and lung fitness is beneficial for cognitive function in healthy older adults and can interrupt the disease processes of dementia

Pleasing to see a number of Council initiatives include:

To meet the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the NHS Bath and North East Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group and Council have 6 projects:

- Commissioned Dementia Support Workers to provide support to people recently diagnosed or in the process of obtaining a diagnosis of dementia and also their carers. This service is delivered by the Alzheimer's Society.
- Memory Technology Library to support people with dementia to remain as independent as possible (provided by Sirona)
- Integrated hospital and community support using dementia co-ordinators and additional mental health liaison nurses in order to ensure patients with dementia get treatment and support personalised to them and to facilitate timely discharge (provided by the Royal United Hospital)
- A Rural Independent Living Support Service to help people living in rural areas access services (provided by Curo)
- A Home from Hospital service to support a successful discharge from hospital (provided by The Carers Centre and Age UK B&NES)

- A Community Hospital and Care Home Support and Assessment service to help community hospitals and care homes better people in their care with dementia (provided by Avon & West Wilts Mental Health Partnership).
- improve dementia care including; driving improvements in health and care, creating dementia friendly communities, and better research

Still need for more publicity, more awareness raising direct link with connecting communities work.

The most important stakeholders in this process of course are people with dementia, and those who care for and support them.

Gone are the days when it was acceptable to provide services for disabled people without consulting them – This Disability history month note that 100 years since start WW1 that saw 2 million disabled war veterans – who mainly suffered in silence – also precipitated the call for rights not charity as and the slogan coined in the 1990's "Nothing about us without us."

What does the community say?

The South West Care Services Improvement Partnership's regional consultation on dementia brought out three themes from carers, users, and the general public;

- Improving information and raising awareness
- Promoting early diagnosis and intervention
- Improving care for people with dementia¹³

Dementia-friendly communities need to be responsive to what people want, but perhaps more importantly, people with dementia should have the right to have a sense of ownership, investment, responsibility and of connectedness to their own communities.

Labour party had training what it is like living with dementia. Good to see that some Councillors from Bath & North East Somerset Council have undertaken training about thanks to two Dementia Friends Champions.

Has B&NES adopted the "Dementia Quality Mark" for care homes to ensure that people are living well in care homes? Exceedingly vulnerable don't want to see another Winterbourne View.

Why is this important?

- With an increased national focus on both quality of care within homes and the level of dementia specific
- care within both health and social care sectors, the DQM offers an opportunity for the
- Local Authority to demonstrate proactive accreditation of dementia standards. More importantly
- there is the opportunity to support homes, promote existing resources, and encourage support
- networks in order to best improve outcomes for residents within Bristol's homes.

What does it measure?

Quality standards and expectations will always be subject to change, so the award of a Dementia Quality Mark places the onus on the provider to assure care and will indicate that:

- The home has a sound person-centred approach to the provision of dementia care, with a firm focus on quality of life
- Staff are both trained and supported to provide good quality dementia care.
- The care service has an effective quality assurance system to check that the outcomes for people with dementia care are good.
- The service is committed to ongoing improvement and development.

Why is it important for this work?

- People with dementia have a right to a say in decisions that affect their lives.
- Involving people with dementia sends an important message about the values inherent in the notion of dementia-friendly communities.
- It engenders a sense of ownership and investment.
- On a practical level it gives us a somewhere to start in developing dementia friendly communities. If people with dementia tell us they all want to use the café in the garden centre – then we start there.

The voices of people with dementia and their carers should be at the start and the heart of the process of creating dementia-friendly communities.

Pleased to see B&NES adopt this and to ensure that activities are also carried out in the rural areas as well in Bath.