

Plymouths Dementia Strategy – update

Plymouth City Council Adult Social Care Services and NHS Plymouth have been working together to deliver the Joint Dementia Strategy for Plymouth.

In Plymouth Services currently provided by specialist and non-specialist staff for people diagnosed with dementia are of excellent quality but it is acknowledged nationally and locally that there is a significant number of older people living in our communities with dementia who have not had the benefit of a specialist assessment and, therefore, have not had their care needs identified, or met. In addition, as people live longer, we can expect the number of people with dementia to rise which will place an additional burden on local services. There is no option, or desire, to stand still.

The joint strategy Adult Social Care and NHS Plymouth in conjunction with the SHA have undertaken a baseline review of current services which identified gaps in provision and areas for improvement. There is clearly need to be a redesigning of specialist services to ensure they are fit for purpose, able to meet the growing demand and that people with dementia in Plymouth will be able to access the highest quality care available.

This strategy advocates provision of:

- A robust analysis of the needs of older people with dementia in Plymouth to inform commissioning.
- A whole health and social care system focus for service improvement
- A commissioning framework for Plymouth City Council and NHS Plymouth
- Coherence with other related health and social care commissioning strategies - All our Futures Strategy
- for people over 50, Extra Care Housing Strategy, Carers' Strategy and the End of Life Care Strategy

The overarching commissioning aims of the strategy include:

1. For Plymouth to be a regional or national leader in dementia care service provision.
2. To secure services and support that deliver holistic, person-centred health and care and low level support which address mental, as well as physical health needs and which provide dignity and respect.
3. To secure services that are flexible and able to change in line with people's unique circumstances, enabling independence and choice.
4. To secure a comprehensive Community Memory Service as part of a fully integrated pathway of care.
5. To promote equity of access to services and support based on individual and population needs.
6. To ensure that treatment, care and support is based on the best available evidence of effectiveness.
7. To ensure that wide ranging resources and services in the community are supported to be alert and responsive to the needs of people, particularly those in the early stages of dementia.

Joint Dementia Programme Board

A Joint Programme Board has been established with NHS Plymouth as the lead agency for the delivery of the Dementia Strategy and there are specific actions against each member of the project group:

- Dr Andrew Stone – Consultant Derriford Hospital
- Dr Kate Anderson – Consultant Psychologist
- Julie Wilson – Mental Health Commissioner NHS Plymouth (Dementia / Autism)
- Karen Grimshaw – Director of Nursing Derriford Hospital
- Dr Tamsin Ousey – GP Lead (Dementia)
- Debbie Butcher Commissioning Manager – Adult Social Care
- Jennifer Jones – NHS Plymouth
- Carol Green – Head of Continuing Health Care
- Representatives from Community and Voluntary Sector
- Representatives from Care Home Sector

Where other people are required for specific task and finish areas they are invited to the programme board.

Progress against Action Plan

Progress to date includes the following:

In respect of the National Strategy which advocates the following 3 key areas:

1. Information, Education, Signposting
2. Early Intervention / Detection
3. Improving Quality of Nursing Homes .

1. Information, Education, Signposting

Through the joint programme given the following has been achieved

- Lead GP identified to support primary care education, training and awareness
- Dementia Lead Consultant appointed to enhance development of service provision and development of care pathway
- A range of information being developed for providers including primary care
- The commissioned research to inform the development of care pathway in conjunction with University Plymouth and the Alzheimer's Society
- Launch of Dementia Strategy in early December in conjunction with Plymouth University Dementia Research Team.
- A Care Pathway for patients and carers is under development and will be launched later this year and will describe how people access services.
- Master classes for GPs being are being delivered.

2. Early Intervention / Detection

- Health and social care services will be redesigned through the TCS agenda to address the required anticipated growing need i.e. addition of specialist mental health staff to RITA / District Nursing Services)

- The Community Memory Service has achieved a national accreditation award .and we have commissioned a nurse prescriber to support the service.
- Monitoring of Strategic Health Authority key performance indicators demonstrating assurance of delivery and outcome

3. Quality

- We have representatives who are key members of the Joint Programme Board supporting SHA to shape requirement of care pathway across the Peninsula, key performance indicators, improvement in acute care developments
- Range of information has been developed regarding improvement of clients experience on acute wards
- We will be working with Care Quality Commission to develop a “quality mark “for homes that care for people with dementia.
- There is a review of acute provision to focus more support into the community enabling people to remain at home longer.
- Redevelopment / redesign of Plymouth Liaison to enhance quality care in acute provision
- Audit of prescribing anti psychotics and benzodiazepines in primary, secondary and nursing home care for those with dementia with a view to reduce and utilize new and more effective medication
- The Dignity in Care Forum achieved a national award to support care homes.

In January 2011 the Strategic Health Authority will be undergoing a validation exercise which will evaluate Plymouths joint progress in delivering the Dementia Strategy. The report will be presented back to Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel.