

CARING PLYMOUTH - DEMENTIA STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

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PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

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INTRODUCTION

It is predicted that by 2015, 3166 individuals in Plymouth will be living with dementia, rising to 3667 by 2020 (Projecting Older People Population Information System - POPPI). Two-thirds of people with dementia live independently within the community.

The diagnosis rate for England as a whole is 46%. For the Western Locality of the Northern, Eastern, and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (NEW Devon Devon CCG) it is 45% which is higher than both Northern (41%) and Eastern (36%) Localities

REFRESH OF PLYMOUTH'S JOINT DEMENTIA STRATEGY

There has been a well-established Joint Dementia Strategy in Plymouth, led by Plymouth City Council (PCC) and Health commissioners, since 2010 which was based on extensive consultation with people with dementia and their carers.

A refreshed strategic document has now been produced called 'Living Well With Dementia in Plymouth and Devon: Making Progress', which sets out progress so far across the whole of the NEW Devon CCG area including Plymouth and covers the aims which are in the National Dementia Strategy which are:

Raising awareness and understanding, including developing Dementia Friendly Communities

Improving early diagnosis

Living well with dementia

CONSULTATION PROCESS

In 2013 a working group of stakeholders was convened to discuss how to take the strategy forward and to agree an associated Action Plan. This stakeholder group included PCC Co-operative Commissioning Team, NEW Devon CCG, organisations representing people living with dementia, social care and health providers, PCC Office of the Director of Public Health (ODPH), Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust, the Carers Hub, Voluntary Sector services such as Befriending, and GPs.

Further consultation was carried out in one to one meetings with key stakeholders in order to gain commitment from them about the actions they would take towards achieving the strategy.

The draft Strategy and Action Plan were also discussed with a group of people living with dementia and their priorities for the Action Plan were:

- Research to find a cure
- Prevention
- Activities for people with dementia to keep busy
 - Memory cafes
 - Peer support
 - Coach trips
 - Walking
 - Painting
- The opportunity to be useful e.g. volunteering, skill sharing
- Personal alarms are reassuring
- Training and awareness for GPs to improve diagnosis and ensure appropriate support

All of the above points have been incorporated into the Action Plan and/or are already incorporated into services we currently commission for people with dementia and their carers.

One further outcome from all of this consultation was that there were two further priority areas for Plymouth in addition to the three existing outcomes that we wanted to include in our Action Plan:

Ensuring support for carers

Continual improvement in quality of care in integrated services

GOVERNANCE

A Dementia Stakeholder Group will meet quarterly to oversee the implementation of the strategy and action plan. The membership includes PCC Co-operative Commissioning Team, NEW Devon CCG, organisations representing people living with dementia, social care and health providers, PCC ODPH, Plymouth NHS Hospitals Trust, the Carers Hub, Voluntary Sector services such as Befriending, and GPs.

The Stakeholder Group will feed into the CCG's Older People's Mental Health Steering Group and, through this to the CCG Partnership's Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

The Action Plan is based on the five outcome areas agreed following consultation. The following is a highlight of those actions where we have made progress since April 2014:

Outcome 1: Raising Awareness and Understanding

- Dementia Friendly City Programme (DFC) – Plymouth has been recognised by the Alzheimer's Society nationally as one of the first cities to be working towards becoming dementia friendly and the Council's commitment to this has been underlined by the appointment of a Dementia Friendly City Co-ordinator. This has been highly successful in supporting the Plymouth Dementia Action Alliance to continue to grow and have a recognisable impact on awareness about dementia in the city
- A Workforce Development strategy – the Dementia Friendly City Co-ordinator is rolling out dementia awareness across PCC. In addition, nearly all of the 168 social care staff have attended specialised dementia training
- Improve GP knowledge and expertise – a workshop will be delivered at the NEW Devon CCG's GP forum in September

Outcome 2: Early Diagnosis and Support

- Continue to work with care homes to diagnose residents – the PCH Memory Service delivered a workshop about the benefits of early diagnosis at the June Dignity in Care Forum. The NEW Devon CCG and the South West Strategic Clinical Network have recently jointly allocated funding to appoint a Community Psychiatric Nurse (CPN) to work in care homes and support diagnosis
- Dementia Support Workers to prioritise case finding – this service which is jointly commissioned by PCC and NEW Devon CCG is working in an integrated way with the PCH Memory Service to raise awareness amongst GPs of the support available for people on diagnosis

Outcome 3 – Living Well with Dementia

- Increased Access to Arts, Culture and Leisure – PCC has commissioned the Arts and Heritage service to deliver an Arts and Minds programme for people living with dementia. The Arts and Minds programme is supporting 8 people with dementia and their carers and has already received extremely positive feedback from participants who are reporting an improvement in their memory and their quality of life. PCC is also funding a Get into Reading group for people living with dementia and the DFC Co-ordinator is working with arts and leisure providers to ensure they join the PDAA and increase their capacity to support people with dementia.
- The NEW Devon CCG and Devon County and Plymouth City Councils are working jointly on a ‘dementia pathway’ that will ensure that everyone with dementia is able to achieve their desired outcomes with equity across the whole area

Outcome 4 – Ensuring Support for Carers

- Review of the support groups for carers of people with dementia – the Carers Hub, Alzheimer’s Society, Age UK and PCH Memory Service are working together to review the support available and at July 2014 two more groups were put in place
- Discharge from hospital processes include information for carers – the Carers Hub is working to ensure that all carers are appropriately signposted to their service when the person they care for is discharged

Outcome 5 – Continuous Quality Improvement and Integration

- Service User involvement – the Co-operative Commissioning team and the Alzheimer’s Society are working jointly to undertake consultation with people who currently do not attend the support that is available
- Quality in care homes – the number of care homes with the Dementia Quality Mark continues to grow with 7 more applications received to add to the 29 already awarded
- Care Homes environmental improvement grants were recently awarded and included an element of making homes more dementia friendly

The Draft Dementia Strategy and Action Plan can be found on the following web page:

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/strategiccommissioning/dementiastrategiccommissioning.htm>