

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 12 April 2018

Report of the Director of Public Health

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Lancashire County Council Dementia Strategy

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

The Dementia Strategy, as set out at Appendix 'A', provides the strategic direction for Lancashire County Council in supporting people with dementia and their carers and families. It aims to facilitate the development of a Dementia Friendly Lancashire which will support prevention, awareness, early diagnosis and support for people with dementia in partnership with other organisations.

We want to make a positive difference to the lives of people living with dementia and their carers, so they can be as independent as possible, for as long as possible, and feel understood and included, so they can confidently contribute to community life.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order No. 25 have been complied with.

Recommendation

The Cabinet is asked to approve the Lancashire Dementia Strategy – Dementia Friendly Lancashire 2018 – 2023, as set out at Appendix 'A'.

Background and Advice

The strategy outlines the county council's vision to facilitate the development of a Dementia Friendly Lancashire, to make a positive difference to the lives of people with dementia, so that they can 'live well' with dementia. The strategy objectives are to:

1. Take action to reduce the prevalence of dementia in Lancashire;

2. Raise awareness of all types of dementia amongst all population groups in Lancashire;
3. Promote early diagnosis and increase diagnosis rates across Lancashire;
4. Facilitate action to early treatment and appropriate support to allow people with dementia to live well and independently in Lancashire and;
5. Become a 'Dementia Friendly' organisation and to continue to develop partnerships in Lancashire.

Dementia is a condition, usually of a chronic or progressive nature, in which there is deterioration in cognitive function (i.e. the ability to process thought) beyond what might be expected from normal ageing.

There are a number of types of dementia, which are caused by different diseases of the brain. These different types of dementia are associated with different risk factors. The most common type is Alzheimer's disease, affecting about 62% of those with dementia.

Figures from the 2016/17 Quality and Outcomes Framework indicate that there are 15,649 known cases of dementia, accounting for 0.90% of the registered population, across the Lancashire and South Cumbria Sustainability and Transformation Partnership footprint.

Between 2016 and 2026, the number of people aged 65+ living with Dementia in the county council area is expected to increase by approximately by 27%. This is mainly driven by projected changes in the age structure of the population.

It is difficult to establish an accurate prevalence of early onset dementia (under age 65) but a needs assessment completed in 2016 by the council highlighted that there is a substantial gap between estimated and diagnosed prevalence. There could be more than 800 people in Lancashire with early onset dementia and around 470 of these could be undiagnosed.

Nationally, a great emphasis is being placed on the early diagnosis of dementia, to ensure that people can be provided with treatment and interventions at the earliest possible opportunity. Greater awareness of dementia and the benefit of early diagnosis will help to improve the diagnosis rate.

Consultations

The county council has sought the views of partners on the draft strategy. This has included consultation with the Dementia Action Alliances, the Lancashire 50+ Assembly, Older People's Forums, Physical Disability Partnerships, Clinical Commissioning Groups, District Councils, Carers Services and other Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector organisations. The consultation has also been shared with the public electronically and via the media.

A small number of respondents provided feedback on the strategy, action plan or raised questions. The key themes of the consultation responses are as follows:

- The 5 year goal is excellent and all 5 objectives are of equal importance.

- There needs to be emphasis around supporting the person to live well and as independently as possible, with the right care specific to the individual.
- A key success will be working with other external partners for a positive impact not only on the individual with the diagnosis of dementia but also for the carers and families who support them.
- We must remember that the vision needs to keep moving forward.
- There's no mention of community transport in the strategy, which we feel is missing as people who have dementia often lose the right to drive.
- It's great that this very difficult condition is being discussed and action plans put in place and the strategy is impressive in its vision, scope and measures of success.
- Lancashire County Council need to facilitate greater partnership working between statutory and third sector organisations.
- Many families do not know about X, Y or Z service, despite having dealt with many other agencies whilst on their journey.
- More dementia hubs are needed, we would definitely benefit from one in West Lancashire.
- Only with engagement can you truly envisage a more dementia friendly Lancashire, thus you must capture feedback from those living with dementia in Lancashire, and their families.

The Strategy has been amended to incorporating suggestions made by respondents.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Legal

There are no legal issues arising from this strategy.

Financial

The Lancashire Dementia Strategy objectives will be supported through the existing revenue budgets provision.

In addition to this, county council buildings including older people's residential care homes are or are working towards becoming dementia friendly.

The county council have approved a £6.6 million programme of refurbishment works to the 17 older people's residential homes, which will include the replacement of fittings, in line with best practice for accommodating residents with dementia.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A