

Executive Summary for the 'Living Well with Dementia' in Lancashire Report

At the Health Scrutiny Committee on the 12 July 2011 a report on the mental health inpatient reconfiguration proposals was discussed. Elected Members decided to set a task group to review the services and support available to dementia patients with a particular focus on respite provision.

The task group focused on the following stages:

- Prevention and early diagnosis
- Home and community based provision
- Residential care
- End of life care

The task group conducted their research by carrying out discussions with relevant professionals, carrying out care home visits and considering a range of documentary evidence.

The task group arrived at the following conclusions:

Early diagnosis

- Remove the stigma and raise the awareness of dementia
- Enable people to live well with dementia
- Education about dementia is needed
- Increase the exposure of positive experiences
- GP's could be encouraged to add a simple memory test to the periodical health checks
- Planning needs to be undertaken for what services will be required in the next 5/10/15 years due to the predicted increase in the number of people with dementia by 2025.

Home/community base support

- The Alzheimer's website has useful advice and guidance
- It was acknowledged that due to the small numbers of patients under 65 years with dementia, the commissioning of specialist services was difficult. However it was felt that Help Direct would be able to signpost patients and carers and offer advice and guidance.
- The topic needs to be NHS driven in terms of commissioning services. However, there is unlikely to be additional funding to deliver more services so a different approach is needed. With the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing sitting on the Health and Wellbeing Board they will be in a position to request that issues, such as dementia services, are added to the agenda.

- A good business case is needed to justify initial investment of training 'front-line' staff.
- E-learning could be a cost effective way of delivering basic awareness training.
- The Communications Team could promote positive messages of living with dementia

Residential and nursing homes

- Adequate training for all residential and nursing home workers would enable a greater understanding of the condition and how to cater for the needs of the residents.
- The PP list could provide more meaningful information

End of Life Care

- Opportunities to discuss end of life care could be incorporated into the overall care plans.

Recommendation from Overview & Scrutiny Task Group

The task group have recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board consider how dementia services will be planned over the next 5-15 years to meet the predicted increase in demand.

RECOMMENDATION

The HWB are asked to note the report and consider the report in more detail at a future HWB meeting.