
Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care - 18TH November 2010

Report Of The Interim Director Of Adult Social Services.

Dudley Dementia Strategy

Purpose of Report

- To advise the Committee of progress with developing a joint Dementia Strategy in line with national Guidance.
- To seek endorsement of the outcomes, objectives and actions to deliver the strategy for people with dementia and their carers.

Background

1. "Living Well with Dementia: A National Dementia Strategy" was published in February 2009.
2. The strategy acknowledges the impact that dementia has on every community and identifies ways in which Councils and local NHS organisations can improve outcomes for people with dementia and their carers.
3. A national Programme Board for Older People and Dementia will monitor progress, highlight best practice and work to remove barriers to successful implementation.
4. The strategy sets out outcomes to assist local commissioners identify the range of services and actions required to enable people with dementia and their carers to live well with their dementia and to reduce the premature and/or inappropriate use of residential care. The Dudley Dementia Strategy has adopted these outcomes.
5. The seven key priority areas that are likely to need detailed attention at a local level are:
 - Early intervention and diagnosis for all.
 - Improved personal support services in the community.
 - Implementing the Carers Strategy.
 - Improved quality of care for people with dementia in general hospitals.
 - Living well with dementia in care homes.
 - An informed and effective workforce for people with dementia.

- A Joint Commissioning Strategy for people with dementia.
- Maximise the opportunities for harm prevention
- Improve the quality of life of people with dementia and their families

Identifying need and demand for services.

6. Although the population of Dudley is forecast to increase by just 1% by 2020; the number of people aged over 75 years is forecast to double, giving 7-8,000 more people over the age of 75 years. Of these, 3,000 are forecast to be over 85 years. The minority ethnic population (6.3% 2001 Census) is also likely to increase and the age profile, which is currently younger than the white population, will change. This will add to the increasing demand for services for older people.
7. Dementia is one of the main causes of disability. It affects adults of all ages and includes people with learning disabilities. In the UK there are 700,000 people with dementia now. In 30 years this number will double to 1.4 million.
8. The prevalence of dementia in Dudley is highest in the 76 – 86 years age band. (Alzheimer's Society 2007)
9. National prevalence data indicates that in 2010 there are 3814 people in Dudley who have dementia.
10. The local authority currently accommodates 121 people in council owned homes. People with dementia account for approximately 46% of this population. There is an increase in the numbers of people with dementia being admitted to re-ablement units at both New Swinford Hall and New Bridge House.
11. DACHS Internal Home Care service currently provides 315 hours per week support at home for people with dementia or older people with mental health problems. DACHS currently commissions services for 456 people with dementia in residential/nursing care.
12. The 'Just Checking' Telecare system has provided support for 27 people with dementia and their carers over the past year.
13. Much of the management of patients with dementia is indirect through the support of those caring for them. 30% of carers will suffer from depression at some stage, and information, emotional support and also practical support and respite services are essential.
14. Many carers are themselves elderly people, and caring can pose a major burden affecting their own physical as well as mental health. The highest number of carers of people with Dementia in Dudley are in the 71 – 90 years age band. (Alzheimer's Society 2007)

15. DACHS has acknowledged the special role that the local authority has to play in supporting people with dementia and their carers and has enabled people with dementia and their carers to access normal care pathways by enhancing home care and residential provision via the additional funding of £200.000.

Draft Dudley Joint Strategy for Mental Health Services for Older People & Dementia including Younger Onset

16. This strategy is being developed by the Dudley Dementia Strategy Group which includes commissioners in DACHS and the Primary Care Trust (PCT), working closely with people with dementia, their carers, the independent and voluntary sector and professionals within the health & social care sector.
17. The draft strategy applies to all Older People and the principles contained in the document apply equally to able bodied people, those of working age with dementia and those with a learning, physical or sensory disability.
18. The draft strategy represents the seventeen outcome areas identified by the government in the national strategy. It sets out the actions to achieve these outcomes and aligns them with other relevant Primary Care Trust and Council strategies, Directorate priorities and the Transforming Social Care Agenda.
19. The group has identified actions to meet the national and local strategy and these are set out in the Action Plan attached at Appendix A.
20. The strategy is in draft form and at present has not been signed off by officers of Dudley Primary Care Trust or Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust. A consensus between primary and secondary care services on how the memory and assessment service is to be delivered is now close to being achieved and the proposed Dudley Dementia Pathway has been agreed by all parties.
21. Funding has been forthcoming from the PCT, (£60K for the Specialist Dementia Nurse and £20k disbursed to the Alzheimer's Society for a short breaks service), this needs to be re- negotiated and increased in line with the commitment from DACHS.

The Dudley Dementia Gateways

22. The proposed model of delivery of Council services for people with dementia and their carers is via Dementia Gateways.
23. The Dementia Gateways would incorporate all aspects of assessment and service delivery and play a vital part in delivering high quality person centred services for people with dementia and their carers. This facility

for early intervention and diagnosis would improve outcomes for people with dementia and their carers.

24. The Gateways would provide a 'one stop shop' for people with dementia and their carers, enabling their needs to be met by a team of professionals recruited from the health, social care and voluntary sector.
25. This approach would streamline the individual's journey on the dementia care pathway and ensure that the appropriate services are accessed and regularly reviewed.
26. As a first step, the memory assessment service would be accessed via contact with a Specialist Dementia Nurse, supported by clinicians from the Dudley & Walsall Mental Health Provider Trust.
27. The Specialist Dementia Nurse and Dementia Advisers would coordinate a holistic assessment resulting in a person centred care plan.
28. The Dementia Gateways would link people with dementia to advice and information services, respite services, carers support, short breaks service, Dementia Advisers and specialist care staff offering care at home and palliative care when required.
29. People with dementia, who display behavioural signs that place them at risk would be linked by the Dementia Gateways to the Community Mental Health Team for Older People.

The Dudley Dementia Gateways: Physical Location

30. It is proposed that the Dementia Gateways be located at three existing day opportunities centres located in the north, south and centre of the borough.
31. The centres would provide a base for the following groups of staff:
 - Alzheimer's Society advice and information service
 - A base for the visiting Specialist Dementia Nurse
 - A clinic for visiting medical staff and psychiatrists
 - Carers Support Services and resources.
 - Dementia Advisers
 - Specialist Care Staff
 - Telecare/telehealth information and equipment loan services.
 - Meeting places for support groups, carers groups.
 - Meeting place for the multi-disciplinary team.
 - Day respite for carers
 - Day opportunities for people with dementia.

Finance

32. The requirement to deliver better outcomes for people with dementia and their carers needs to be considered in terms of budget allocation and financial responsibilities across the health and social care economy.
33. Further negotiations will be required with both the PCT and the Mental Health Provider to ensure that adequate levels of resources will be available to deliver a multi-agency service in line with the local and national strategy.
34. In order to deliver the strategy it may be necessary to review the range of services for people with dementia, commissioned from the independent and voluntary sector, in order to avoid duplication and realise business efficiencies. . The Dudley Dementia Strategy will facilitate the development of creative personalised services in the form of the Dementia Gateway that offers early intervention and enables people with dementia to live in their own homes for as long as possible.
35. Published studies of early intervention programmes which provided carers with training and coping skills to care for relatives with dementia found that early intervention and carer support can reduce the psychological morbidity of the carer and delay the placement of the patient in a residential institution. In real terms this should mean that up to fifteen persons per year in the borough will be diverted from more expensive full time institutional care.

Law

36. The Council has powers and duties to support persons with dementia under its welfare function contained in a number of statutes including the National Assistance Act 1948, the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, the Community Care Act 1990 and the Mental Health Acts and may do anything incidental to conducive to or which facilitates the discharge of its functions under section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Equality Impact

38. The Dementia Strategy, when completed, will be subject to consultation, as per Council policy. In addition an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will be undertaken to ensure that the strategy meets the requirements of the Equality Bill in ensuring recipients of services are free from discrimination of any sort.

Recommendation

It is recommended that HASC:

- endorse the action plan in Appendix A to implement the draft Dementia Strategy to improve outcomes for people with dementia and their carers.
- endorse proposals to develop the Dementia Gateways as outlined in paragraphs 24 – 31 above.
- agree to receive a further report at a later date with the final joint Dementia Strategy for Dudley.

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List of Background Papers.

Appendix A: The Dementia Pathway
Appendix B: Delivering the Dudley Dementia strategy: Objectives and Actions