

**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF ADULT AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
AND HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

19th May, 2014

PRESENT – Councillors Crichlow, Harman, I. Haszeldine, Kelley, Macnab, S Richmond, T Richmond, Thistlethwaite and J Taylor (9)

APOLOGIES – Councillor Donoghue, Hutchinson, B Jones, D Jones, Knowles, Lister, Newall, and York. (8)

ABSENT – Councillors J Lyonette, Nutt, Regan and Mrs Scott. (4)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Copeland.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jeanette Crompton, Development and Commissioning Manager - People.

AHHP1. CHAIR – RESOLVED - That Councillor Thistlethwaite be appointed Chair for this meeting only.

AHHP2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

AHHP3. DEMENTIA STRATEGY FOR COUNTY DURHAM AND DARLINGTON – Submitted – The draft Dementia Strategy for County Durham and Darlington (previously circulated) which was currently being widely consulted on prior to consideration by the Health and Well Being Boards of County Durham and Darlington.

The Development and Commissioning Manager within the People Group outlined the background to the Strategy which had been developed by a Dementia Strategy Task Group, comprising a number of organisations within County Durham and Darlington with the aim of ensuring that the needs of people with dementia and their carers were planned for in the future.

It was reported that the Strategy contained a number of actions which would be focussed on over the next three years to address the challenges faced and Members were asked to consider the draft Strategy and formulate a response thereon with particular focus on whether they felt it contained the right actions to ensure that County Durham and Darlington had the best possible services in place for those who had dementia, their carers and families, and for those who had not yet been diagnosed.

Particular references were made to one of the main areas of focus within the Strategy which was prevention through the promotion of healthy lifestyles; the need to ensure that all services worked together to support different groups of people, including ex-service men and women; awareness raising and the delivery of improved dementia training more widely to all key staff including GP's and frontline staff; the introduction of Dementia Friendly communities; and the need to undertake

a Dementia Health Needs Assessment to better understand the needs of people with dementia in the region.

Discussion also ensued on the role of Members in helping to deliver the actions contained with the Strategy, particularly in engaging local communities and businesses to become dementia friendly and in monitoring its progress; the need for training, particularly in care homes, to raise awareness of dementia; elected Member training which was available to support Members in their role; the need for the Strategy to link to existing social care and health strategies; safeguarding arrangements within care homes; the need for people with dementia to get the best support possible in the community to avoid unnecessary admissions to acute services in accordance with the principles and aim of the Better Care Fund; and the need for all services and stakeholders to work together to ensure delivery and implementation of the Strategy.

RESOLVED – That the following response to the draft consultation document be forwarded on behalf of this Joint Scrutiny Committee :-

- (a) it fully supports the draft Dementia Strategy for County Durham and Darlington as a working document and feels that the framework of priorities is correct;
- (b) it will monitor the delivery, outcomes and achievements of the Dementia Strategy in line with the Sustainable Community Strategy for Darlington;
- (c) that regular reports be submitted to Members on the work of the Implementation Group and that this be added to the previously approved work programmes; and
- (d) that a training session for all Members be arranged.