
DEMENTIA STRATEGY FOR COUNTY DURHAM AND DARLINGTON

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide members of the Adult and Housing Scrutiny Committee with information regarding the progress of the implementation of the Dementia Strategy for County Durham and Darlington.

Summary

2. Darlington Borough Council is working in partnership with Clinical Commissioning Groups across Durham and Darlington, Durham County Council, local Healthwatch organisations and providers of dementia services to implement the County Durham and Darlington Dementia Strategy 2014-2017.
3. Meeting the future needs of people with dementia and their carers has been planned for as part of the development of the strategy. The Dementia Strategy Task Group undertook a stock take of current services, spoke to people with dementia and their carers and identified gaps and priorities, alongside things that needed to change or that could be done differently in the future.
4. The challenges that the strategy plans to address include:-
 - (a) To screen all those who may have dementia or are at risk of developing it.
 - (b) To support people who have dementia to reduce risk of hospital admission, timely discharge and avoid return to hospital unnecessarily because of a lack of support in the community.
 - (c) To reduce the number of people with dementia who spend the last days of their life in hospital rather than at home or at their preferred place of care.
 - (d) To ensure that people with dementia and their carers get the best possible support at all points of their journey.
 - (e) To give the most appropriate and clear information to people with dementia so they can be signposted to access as much support as possible.
 - (f) To improve how we can reach out to and support more young people at risk of developing dementia early.

- (g) To ensure services work together and talk to each other so they are better joined up and can support different groups of people such as:-
 - (i) Those who may develop dementia because of alcohol or substance misuse;
 - (ii) Those with learning disabilities who may have a higher risk of developing dementia early;
 - (iii) Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Groups who may not have the same access to dementia services; and
 - (iv) Prisoners who may develop young onset dementia or when they are older, and to ensure they get the same support as other people with dementia, especially when they leave prison.

- 5. To address the issues the following framework has been developed, detailing the broad aims for the next three years:-
 - (a) Investigate ways to make more people aware of what they can do to prevent dementia.
 - (b) Deliver improved dementia training more widely to all key staff including GPs and frontline staff.
 - (c) Consider ways to avoid where possible people with dementia being admitted or readmitted to hospital. This could be achieved by reshaping existing services or developing new initiatives.
 - (d) Improve support to people with dementia who have challenging behaviour, and also consider the possibility of using specific dementia support workers in hospital.
 - (e) Look at all pathways and make sure they are interlinked so that the highest quality compassionate care is provided, and where there are service gaps, aim to fill them.
 - (f) Develop a single point of knowledge/ information, such as a directory, that holds up to date information on all services, so people with dementia, their carers can have better control over their care and throughout all stages of their dementia. This information will also be used by clinicians and commissioners to help signpost people with dementia to a wide range of services.
 - (g) Implement plans for dementia support to be a part of end of life care and 'planning ahead' for the person with dementia, so everyone is treated with dignity and respect.
 - (h) Implement pilot projects to enable Dementia Friendly Communities to be rolled out over the next three years.
 - (i) Develop greater awareness of the research we do on dementia, and promote more opportunities for people with dementia to join the register where they are

willing to take part in research.

- (j) Carry out a Dementia Health Needs Assessment to gain a better understanding of the needs of people with dementia in the region, and engage with various groups to obtain their views.

Early Achievements

6. The Dementia Strategy was 'signed off' at the Durham and Darlington Health and Well Being Boards in July 2014. Although in the early stages of implementation, there have been a number of early successes which have been achieved. The key achievements which affect Darlington residents include:-
 - (a) The Department of Health funded Dementia Friendly Environment developments to Age UK, known as 'The Arcade' have been completed and been formally opened. The Arcade is well used by people with Dementia and they are benefitting from the more accessible environment.
 - (b) A draft training guide has been developed for the Strategy Group to consider. The aim of the guide is to establish consistency in dementia training across Durham and Darlington and give clear guidance on the levels of training which should be accessed.
 - (c) The delivery of a County Durham and Darlington Roadmap as a single point of information for people went live on 12 September 2014. The Roadmap can be accessed using the link- <http://dementiaroadmap.info/durhamanddarlington/>

What do we plan to do next?

7. The Dementia Strategy Implementation Group has considered the framework of actions and has agreed that they will be managed through the following focussed workstreams, each of which will be led by a member of the Strategy Group:-
 - (a) Community initiatives
 - (b) Acute
 - (c) Training
 - (d) GP Practices
 - (e) Health Needs Assessment
 - (f) Single Point of Information
 - (g) Research
8. The outcomes from the workstreams will cumulate in an enhanced model of dementia care and support for County Durham and Darlington.
9. The focus for delivery for the immediate future will be on:-
 - (a) The identification of commissioning intention funding requirements for 2015-16 to be fed into the CCG's framework for agreeing their annual commissioning intentions.

- (b) Consideration of improvements to communications to ensure a more holistic approach to the provision of advice and information.
- (c) Review of befriending services /services for carers across Durham and Darlington.
- (d) Initiation of the Health Needs Assessment for County Durham, the findings of which will contribute to a scheduled refresh of the Dementia Strategy.
- (e) Development and adoption of the County Durham and Darlington Dementia Guide.
- (f) Plan to interface the County Durham and Darlington Roadmap with other databases on line information systems.

Recommendation

10. It is recommended that:-

- (a) The Adult and Housing Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the progress made by the Dementia Strategy Implementation Group and associated workstreams.
- (b) The Adult and Housing Scrutiny Committee agree to receive further updates regarding how the partners are delivering against the strategic priorities and actions as outlined in the Dementia Strategy.

Murray Rose
Director of Commissioning

Background Papers

Dementia Strategy for County Durham and Darlington 2014-2017

Jeanette Crompton: Extension 2317

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Well Being	Implementation of the strategy will provide improvements for the health and well being of residents with dementia and their carers.
Carbon Impact	There are no implications arising from this report.
Diversity	There are no implications arising from this report.
Wards Affected	All wards will be affected
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	N/A
Key Decision	N/A

Urgent Decision	N/A
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This supports a number of the key outcomes of One Darlington, however notably People are healthy and supported
Efficiency	N/A