

SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

25TH JANUARY 2017

IMPROVING DEMENTIA SUPPORT IN CARMARTHENSHIRE

Purpose:

To provide a progress report for Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee Members on improving dementia services in Carmarthenshire

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- The national recommendations published by the Older People's Commissioner regarding improvements needed in dementia services.
- The regional steering group being set up to deliver these improvements.
- The progress and actions taken at a local level to respond to these recommendations

Reasons:

For the Committee's Information

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: **NO**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. J. Tremlett (Social Care & Health portfolio holder)

Directorate**Communities****Name of Head of Service:**

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SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

25TH JANUARY, 2017

This report provides a progress report on initiatives to improve dementia services on a national, regional and local level.

Nationally

A recent national publication by the Older People's Commissioner of Wales entitled '*More Than Just Memory Loss*¹' looks at how services across Wales need to improve to ensure that people living with dementia and those who care for them can access the services, support, information and advice that they need. The report captures the voices of people living with dementia and their carers from across Wales, who took part in individual interviews and focus group sessions to share their experiences and the challenges they face in many aspects of their day-to-day lives.

Key themes within the Report include: impact on independence; meaningful activity; impact on carers; awareness within society; diagnosis; relationships with professionals; and health and social services, including post-diagnosis support.

Key findings outlined within the Report demonstrate a general paucity in relation to knowledge and understanding of dementia, both amongst professionals and wider society; a lack of flexibility in dementia services; a lack of co-operation between services, which often created barriers for people living with dementia and their carers.

Significant variations in the quality of services available across Wales were identified.

The Report also outlines what would make a difference to the experiences of living with dementia and sets out a number of actions: develop primary care services that are dementia supportive; training for staff on working with people with dementia; and greater post-diagnosis support, including a single point of contact to provide information and advice on the services and support available that can be accessed whenever required.

Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Sarah Rochira, said "This report clearly sets out what action needs to be taken by those providing public services to ensure that people living with dementia can have the best quality of life for as long as possible. Delivering this change is not only good for people living with dementia and their carers, but also good for the public purse."

*A Dementia Learning and Development Framework for Wales*² was published in conjunction with this report. Staff in Carmarthenshire contributed to the development of this Framework which sets out skills and knowledge needed not only from the health and social care workforce but the community as a whole. The Framework divides these skill sets into those who are **Informed**, those who are **Skilled** and those who are **Influencers**.

¹ http://www.olderpeoplewales.com/Libraries/Uploads/More_Than_Just_Memory_Loss.sflb.ashx

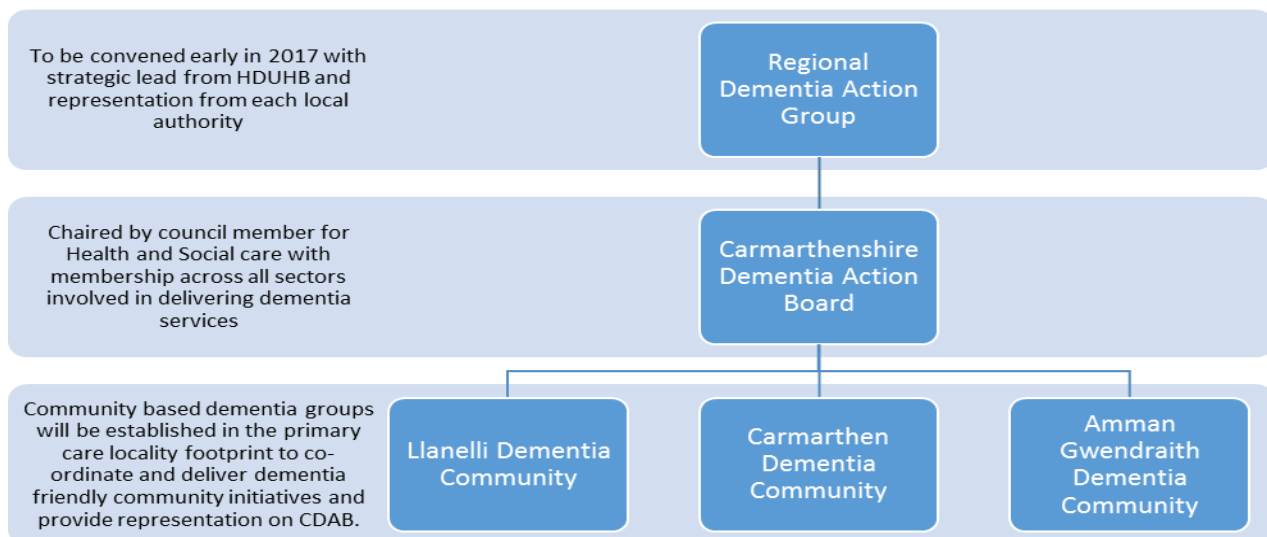
² www.ccwales.org.uk/edrms/157609

Regionally

A regional response was sent to the Older People's Commissioner to outline services in the Hywel Dda / West Wales Region. The West Wales Partnership will oversee implementation and coordination of an action plan across the Region with the first strategic meeting convened on the 24th of January.

Locally

Carmarthenshire's Dementia Action Board: Carmarthenshire Dementia Action Board (CDAB) was set up as a result of the recommendations that came out of the 2011 'Joint Health & Social Care Scrutiny Forum' which reviewed the support available to people in Carmarthenshire living with dementia and their families/carers. It is recognised that CDAB must be effectively aligned with regional and national priorities and work streams in order for it to be effective. Therefore, a consultation event was held with members of CDAB and wider stakeholders including the Health Board and voluntary sector to review its Terms of Reference and membership. The following governance structure has also been proposed to provide a framework for reporting improvements and the provision of assurance.



CDAB's purpose is to ensure that Carmarthenshire residents living with dementia and their carers will experience increased quality of service and enhanced wellbeing by:

- Ensuring that local quality improvement initiatives are in place to remedy actions identified through the regional steering group and that these are effectively monitored.
- Acting as a steering group for identified initiatives to ensure they are delivered in an integrated way, to review progress and measure effectiveness.
- Making a difference dementia services through positive engagement communities, staff and stakeholders.
- Ensuring effective co-production on improvements and services through engagement with locality based dementia groups.

The following provides a broad outline of progress locally to date:

Dementia Friendly Communities: Work supporting this national movement, which aims to improve society's response to people who may have dementia so that people feel included and safer, continues across Carmarthenshire with active groups in Llanelli and Amman Gwendraeth. The first officially dementia friendly community in Carmarthenshire was in Pontyberem with Llanelli Market becoming the first Dementia Friendly Market in Wales in 2015.

Work with primary care: Work is being undertaken to deliver a holistic dementia service across all sectors. GP's in Carmarthenshire will promote early diagnosis of dementia and ensure the delivery of person centred individualised care for those diagnosed with dementia and their families. This will be achieved through robust collaboration between the GP, the older adult mental health team, the community resource team, the voluntary sector and local community groups.

The Amman Gwendraeth GP Cluster continues to fund the community memory service which has been recognised nationally as good practice.

Commissioning: Work is being progressed which explores opportunities to develop a bespoke care and support model for those living with dementia and cognitive impairment. This model will provide a more flexible approach than the traditional domiciliary care model and will allow us to work with our framework providers to respond to personalisation. The intention of the model is to coordinate support around the individual's existing networks and extend them through evidence based approaches to improving outcomes for those with dementia. It is a complimentary model aimed at working alongside the service user to help maintain the status quo. The aspiration is to allow the individual to progress naturally through their dementia journey.

Detailed Report Attached?	No
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Rhian Dawson Head of Integrated Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	NONE

5. Risk Management Issues

The number of people living with dementia is estimated to increase by 23% over the next decade (Source Daffodil).

Dementia does not only affect the individual with the condition but also has a significant impact on family and friends. The financial costs can also be significant to individuals and to statutory services. Therefore ensuring people are appropriately supported is essential to mitigate risks to individuals and to ensure that there is sufficient capacity in health and social care systems to meet the needs of the population.

7. Staffing Implications

In order for Carmarthenshire to deliver on the recommendations outlined in the 'More than Just Memory Loss' report, it is necessary that all staff who have contact with the public should have a basic understanding of how dementia can affect people and have the ability to modify their approach to people who may have the condition.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Rhian Dawson Head of Integrated Services

- 1. Local Member(s) - N/A
- 2. Community / Town Council – N/A
- 3. Relevant Partners - N/A
- 4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - N/A

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THERE ARE NONE

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection