

REPORT TO: Health Policy and Performance Board
DATE: 27th November 2018
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Dementia - Alzheimer's Society
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide the Board with an awareness of dementia, its impact on people's lives and the provision provided by the Alzheimer's Society in Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

i) The report and presentation be noted

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The term 'dementia' describes a set of symptoms which include loss of memory, mood changes, and problems with communication and reasoning. These symptoms occur when the brain is damaged by certain diseases, including Alzheimer's disease and damage caused by a series of small strokes. There are over 100 sub types of dementia.

3.2 Although dementia can affect adults at any age, it is most common in older people becoming more prevalent with increasing age. However, this does not mean it is a natural part of the ageing process or inevitable for all older people.

3.3 According to the Alzheimer's Society, there are over 800,000 people in the UK with dementia. One in three people over the age of 65 will develop dementia, and two thirds of people with dementia are women. It is estimated that by 2021, the number of people with dementia in the UK will have increased to around 1 million.

3.4 Current estimates show that in Halton approximately 70% of the people estimated to have dementia have been diagnosed. In 2009/10 this figure stood at less than half of people estimated to be living with dementia having a diagnosis (46%). Improvements in diagnosis rates have been reached through concerted efforts from all stakeholders to increase awareness, prioritise diagnosis within primary care and improvements in post diagnosis care and support encouraging people who are concerned about their memory to come forward.

- 3.5 Dementia is a progressive disease and there is currently no cure; however a diagnosis may enable care and support to be put in place to manage symptoms or even slow the progression for certain types of dementia. People, and their families, can be supported make informed decisions about future care and support needs whilst they have capacity, and can be enabled to live well with dementia for as long as possible.
- 3.6 People in Halton with a diagnosis of dementia are supported by the 'Post Diagnosis Dementia Community Pathway'. Halton Alzheimer's Society are the lead provider.
- 3.7 Alzheimer's Society work with key stakeholders, including Age UK Mid Mersey, Halton Carers' Centre and Admiral Nurse service, to provide a range of community based information, activities and navigation support in line with the NHS North West Coast Strategic Clinical Network for Dementia 'community pathway model'.

Key features of the pathway:

- 3.8 **A single point of access** that includes a comprehensive assessment of need that identifies an appropriate route through the pathway for the individual and their family/carers.
- 3.9 **A named Dementia Care Advisor/Support Worker** so that people know who to contact if they require information on what support and activities are available, and how to access them. The advisor/support worker provides navigation support through the health and social care system and the universal and dementia specific voluntary sector support.
- 3.10 **Ongoing, regular review, or follow up if the service is not taken up at the point of diagnosis.** People have their needs assessed at regular intervals, and pathway support plans updated to meet their changing needs. People who are not actively engaged in the pathway know that they can access the pathway support at a time that suits them
- 3.11 Alzheimer's Society manages the pathway with a focus being on easy access to a seamless support service for people living with dementia, and their carers. They oversee the quality of provision along the pathway from pre-diagnosis right the way through to end of life, to ensure that services meet the needs of people living with dementia, and their carers, to enable them to live well with dementia in the community.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Halton's Post Diagnosis Community Pathway is consistent with recommendations from the NHS North West Coast Strategic Clinical Network for Dementia, which advises CCGs/Local Authorities on best / evidence based practice models.

4.2 The pathway 'offer' to Halton residents is also reflective of NICE guidelines for support for people living with dementia, and their carers.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified at this time.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None identified

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The provision of community services to enable people to live well with dementia in the community has a direct impact on the health and wellbeing outcomes of people with a dementia diagnosis, and their families and carers.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Information and support provided through the pathway provision may impact on people's ability to live safely within the community.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None identified at this time

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None identified

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.