

BRIEFING REPORT

Corporate Leadership Team

Date of Meeting:	24 th August 2022
Report Title:	Dementia Friends Awareness Sessions
Report of:	Nichola Thompson, Director of Commissioning

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to inform CLT of the proposal to provide Dementia Friends Awareness Sessions to Members, Senior Leadership Team and Cheshire East Council Staff.
- 1.2. This proposal meets the Council's priority within the Corporate Plan to:
Reduce the reliance on long-term care by improving services closer to home and providing more extra care facilities, including dementia services

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The overarching aim of providing Dementia Friends Awareness Sessions is to enable the Council to become a Dementia Friendly Organisation. These sessions will go some way towards enabling Members and staff to learn a little more about what it's like to live with dementia and then be able to turn that understanding into action. Dementia Friends is about learning more about dementia and the small ways people can help, for example: telling other colleagues and friends about dementia friends or visiting someone you know living with dementia.
- 2.2. The more staff from differing departments across the Council that attend the sessions, the more awareness is raised around the subject. These sessions could also empower teams and staff to possibly look at their processes/ policies and procedures around supporting someone living with dementia. This report will outline the detail behind the proposal to hold such sessions with members and staff.

3. Background

- 3.1. In May 2022, Commissioners from Cheshire East Council, Cheshire West and Chester Council and Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group met together with the Alzheimer's Society to discuss the possibility of providing Dementia Friends Awareness Sessions for our respective staff members.
- 3.2. A decision was made that each organisation would go back to their senior management to gauge interest and obtain information about how the sessions should be rolled out. At its meeting on the 12th of May 2022, CLT advised that sessions should be held for:
- A session for all members who want to take part
 - A session for CLT / WLT / WLC
 - Sessions for Cheshire East Council staff

4. Briefing Information

- 4.1. Dementia Friends sessions are friendly and interactive sessions where people can learn more about dementia, how it affects a person and what can you do to help people affected by dementia in your community
- 4.2. The Alzheimer's Society have said they can provide **free** sessions, which could be face to face (maximum 30 people) or virtual (up to 50 people). Each session would last a maximum of 1 hour. Before any of the sessions are to take place the Alzheimer's Society would require one months' notice.
- 4.3. The CLT / WLT and WLC session will be held face to face at 3.30pm on the 18th of October 2022, Committee Suites 1,2 and 3 at Westfields. A virtual session via Microsoft Teams to be held for Members at 1.30pm on the 4th of October 2022. All other sessions would be virtual via Microsoft Teams.
- 4.4. Regarding sessions for staff, the consensus was that to show true Integration the Alzheimer's Society would run the virtual sessions and they would be open to all CEC, CWAC and the former CCCG staff, and for them to all attend together.
- 4.5. The vision is for each organisation to move towards becoming recognised as becoming more Dementia Friendly. Once the sessions are in place and set up it is proposed that the Chief Executive could promote the sessions to CEC staff in her weekly video.
- 4.6. Due to the large number of staff in each department across the organisations, it is proposed that nominations of around 2 members per Department are sought to attend the sessions and cascade the information to other staff members in the first instance. Each Commissioner from the organisations named above will lead on the coordination of each of the

sessions and the Alzheimer's Society will be leading on the delivery of the actual sessions.

- 4.7. The sessions will be advertised and both staff and members will be asked to register for the session they want to attend. Once CLT approve the contents of this report, the Commissioner for Cheshire East Council will move forward with arranging the sessions.
- 4.8. The Alzheimer's Society has advised that they would be happy to support with additional sessions if there is greater demand.
- 4.9. Cheshire East Council Workforce Development Teams have been consulted on the proposal for holding these sessions. They have advised that in terms of the sessions being delivered, they can advertise these through the learning lounge, where staff can then book onto the chosen date/time. They will also work with Commissioners to get the wording right on the advert to ensure we get the right staff to attend, not just Adult Social Care staff and Care4CE. The Alzheimer's Society will advertise the sessions on Eventbrite, and log who attends each session, this would then be fed back to Workforce Development so they can update the information onto the learning lounge, so the delegates individual training records are updated.
- 4.10. All of this links into the current Draft Cheshire East Place Dementia Strategy Action Plan which states

"Look at how Cheshire East Place can start to work to become Dementia Friendly, including Dementia Friends Sessions, awareness and working with employees, organisations and local groups".

5. Implications

5.1. Legal

- 5.1.1. None

5.2. Finance

- 5.2.1. The Alzheimer's Society have offered to deliver the sessions free of charge, therefore, there are no financial implications.

5.3. Human Resources

- 5.3.1. Workforce Development have been advised of these sessions. They are happy to support with this piece of work and would like the Alzheimer's Society to log who attends each session and feedback to them which staff have attended which session, where this information will be put against their training on the Learning Lounge.

Access to Information

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Appendices: N/A

Background Papers:

 

Introduction to Working-to-become-
Dementia Friends predementia-friendly-202