
Adults and Health Committee

Date of Meeting:	16 November 2021
Report Title:	Cheshire East Place Dementia Strategy
Report of:	Helen Charlesworth-May, Executive Director for Adults, Health and Integration
Report Reference No:	AH/06/21-22
Ward(s) Affected:	All wards

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Adults and Health Committee of the contents of the draft Cheshire East Place Dementia Strategy which has been developed in partnership with the Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and to seek approval to consult on this version of the document. As this is a joint strategy, it will also require approval by the CCG Programme Development Group.
- 1.2** The strategy 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.
- 1.3** The strategy is informed by what people have told us about their experiences either as a person living with dementia or as a carer, and is written for those people; specifically, those with memory concerns, those with a dementia diagnosis, their families and carers and the organisations supporting them. Other stakeholders who have also been involved in developing this strategy include, Dementia Friendly Community members, individuals living with dementia and their carers, Body Positive, Care Community members, local health, social care, and voluntary organisations.
- 1.4** As part of informing the draft strategy, between 17th July 2020 and 14th August 2020, Cheshire East Council conducted a survey to gain information

to support the draft Cheshire East Place Dementia Strategy. The aim was to ascertain how those living with dementia, their carers and families felt about certain statements based on the five key dementia principles which have formed the basis of the draft strategy. During August 2021, members of the Dementia Steering Group held face to face groups with members of the public who are living with dementia and their carers, the feedback from these sessions have also been used to inform the draft strategy.

1.5 In supporting the vision, the draft strategy sets out several long-term outcomes as part of the Council's commitment to people living with dementia and their carers:

- People living with dementia and their carers and families will feel understood.
- People living with dementia will be able to remain living within their own home and in their own community.
- People living with dementia and their carers will feel included and listened to and will be fully involved in their decision making.
- People living with dementia and their carers will know how and where to access support in their community.
- People living with dementia will receive a timely diagnosis and personalised and holistic support following diagnosis.

1.6 It is envisaged that the action plan within the strategy will be flexible to adapt to changing circumstances. Both the strategy and the action plan which sit alongside it have been co-produced with those living with dementia / their carers, and organisations with a stake in the dementia journey.

1.7 Once the strategy has been out for formal consultation and becomes a finalised document, there will be engagement events to promote and create awareness with stakeholders including members of the public.

1.8 Following the approval of the strategy, a fully costed implementation plan will be completed.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Adults and Heath Committee approve the draft Strategy for formal consultation.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The strategy sets out the Cheshire East Place ambition to support people to live well with dementia. One of Cheshire East's Corporate Plan objectives is to *"Reduce the reliance on long-term care by improving services closer to home and providing more extra care facilities, including dementia services"*.

It also reflects the national strategic direction outlined in the Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia which details ambitious reforms to be achieved by 2020.

- 3.2** There are approximately 5,192 people over the age of 65 living with dementia in Cheshire East and this is set to increase to 7,514 by 2025 (*Cheshire East Local Profile: Alzheimer's Society July 2019*). This will have significant cost implications to the Health and Social Care system.
- 3.3** The impact of dementia on the individual and their family can be substantial and distressing. The Council and Cheshire CCG intend to lead the way in engaging with and providing support to people with dementia and their families and carers as early as possible and will aim to develop and commission services that meet assessed needs in a timely manner. This will be done by working in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, including individuals living with dementia, their carers, and families.
- 3.4** A Joint Dementia Commissioning Work Plan was completed in 2014 between Cheshire East Council and the two Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) otherwise known then as the Joint Commissioning Partnership (JCP). This was a three-year Integrated Commissioning Plan (Strategy) for the JCP, and it set out the commissioning intentions of all partners for 2014-17 for people who have Dementia and their carers within the boundaries of the three organisations.
- 3.5** Since 2017 there has been a considerable amount of innovative activity by members of the community and the Council's Communities Team. Key outputs include an increase in dementia friendly communities, more people trained to be dementia friends and there has also been an increase in support groups, dementia cafes etc. As the JCP work plan ended in 2017 there was a gap from Cheshire East Council's point of view in that there had been no other strategy to take its place to capture all of the activity that had taken place / or was currently ongoing, nor to identify where the possible gaps in service delivery may be. As a result, a decision was made in 2019 that Cheshire East needed to develop a dementia strategy.
- 3.6** Cheshire East Council and Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group have drafted the Cheshire East Place Dementia Strategy to identify and consider local support needs in relation to dementia and to map service provision with a view to ensuring that the right services are delivered, in the right place, for the right people at the right time. The aim is to make a real and positive difference to the lives of people living with dementia in Cheshire East and to ensure that people with dementia and their carers receive high quality,

compassionate, and timely care whether they are at home, in hospital or in a care home. The overarching vision is to make Cheshire East a truly dementia friendly community.

4 Other Options Considered

- 4.1** Another option would be to not consult on the draft strategy. However, this would not demonstrate an inclusive approach, transparency, or good practice.

5. Background

- 5.1.** The Joint Dementia Commissioning Work Plan provided a framework to support the provision of flexible, responsive and equitable services to enable the JCP to work in partnership to improve the care and support given to people with Dementia and their families and carers and to meet national and local key targets. This work plan was instrumental in launching the Dementia Reablement Service and Dementia Friendly Communities opportunities within the Cheshire East footprint.
- 5.2.** A Dementia Steering Group was created in January 2021. Membership consists of Dementia Friendly Community Leads, Dementia leads from each of the local Hospitals, Alzheimer's Society, Dementia Reablement Team, Carers Hub, End of Life Partnership and Cheshire Fire Service. This group has been instrumental in shaping the draft strategy, they have provided vital information to support the drafting of the document and will take ownership of the implementation of the Strategy Action Plan, to ensure there is a consistent approach to developing dementia services across the borough.
- 5.3.** There are 8 communities within Cheshire East that have been awarded the status of "working to become dementia friendly" through the Alzheimer's Society's formal recognition process:
- Alsager
 - Poynton
 - Sandbach
 - Congleton
 - Bollington
 - Crewe
 - Nantwich
 - Holmes Chapel
- 5.4.** It is worth noting that the Dementia Friendly Community status of "working to become dementia friendly", is an ongoing process with an annual review required by the Alzheimer's Society.

- 5.5.** Each of the areas above have named dementia leads who work to make their community dementia friendly, the work they do is highly valued by the communities they support. An example of the good work that is taking place is the exploration of rolling out the 'SWAY' software for use in schools, this has been trialled in Alsager and will hopefully be replicated in other areas.
- 5.6.** In addition, Commissioners have also engaged with front line organisations such as the Carers Hub and My Cheshire Without Abuse. As a result of this engagement a project group has been established which is working on supporting and improving awareness and knowledge of practitioners, residents and all those involved in pathways relating to Domestic Abuse and individuals living with dementia / carers. The group work in partnership with each other to agree strategic objectives, review current provision and develop best practice to ensure residents affected by dementia / carers can get the care and support they need.
- 5.7.** Due to the Covid pandemic, face to face engagement with those living with dementia and their carers has been limited, but our Community Development Officers have spoken to individuals from such community cohorts as ethnic minorities, to obtain their feedback on their experiences of dementia, and these have been incorporated into the draft strategy. Representatives from ethnic minority communities also provided feedback via the Dementia Survey:
- | | |
|--|----|
| • Asian / Asian British | 2% |
| • Mixed: White and Black Caribbean / African / Asian | 1% |
| • Other ethnic origin | 1% |
| • Rather not say | 5% |
- 5.8.** The formal consultation process will provide a further opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the contents of the draft document. An opportunity to work in a co-productive approach on specific actions will be progressed once the strategy and action plans are signed off as final versions. This will take the form of the development of targeted task and finish groups which will look at specific actions and how to take them forward.
- 5.9.** As a result of the engagement and consultation to date, there are some common themes which have been identified as gaps / issues, these are:
- There needs to be a joined-up approach across the whole dementia journey.

- Those living with Dementia and their carers feel they don't have a voice at a strategic level with the Council.
- Too much information is online.
- Lack of Bereavement Support and signposting.
- Early onset Dementia and age-appropriate services / activities.
- Early onset for those also with Learning Disabilities – as above, also understanding of the specific issues they may face.
- Care at Home and Accommodation with Care providers being trained to Tier 2 level, to further enable understanding around those living with dementia and their differing needs.
- Difficulties faced by those socially isolated, for example access to appropriate dementia friendly transport.
- Dementia Friends awareness for such individuals as Community Groups, Voluntary sector, Health and Social care workers etc. (A dementia friend is where individuals learn a little bit more about what it's like to live with dementia and then turn that understanding into action - anyone of any age can be a Dementia Friend. It's also about learning about small ways you can help. Dementia Friends Information Sessions are run by volunteer Dementia Friends Champions, who are trained and supported by Alzheimer's Society).
- Cheshire East Council staff members ALL need to be Dementia Friends.

5.10. These points have been used to inform the Strategy and Action Plan. Commissioners are working with stakeholders to develop solutions to the points identified which will include such things as: the development of focus groups especially around those action areas which addresses the needs of specific cohorts of the community, such as ethnic minorities, learning disabilities and young onset dementia, also including befriending services to address social isolation and signposting services to ensure that people with dementia and their carers are able to access available and appropriate support.

6. Consultation and Engagement

- 6.1** The dementia survey formed one element of a comprehensive Consultation and Engagement plan for the strategy development.
- 6.2** It was supplemented by face-to-face group engagement which took place throughout parts of Cheshire East by our Dementia Friendly Community Leads and or members of our Communities team / Dementia Reablement team, throughout August 2021. The findings of all engagement measures have been fed into the further development of the draft strategy.

- 6.3** An Easy Read version of the strategy will be published as part of the consultation, along with a Stakeholders Analysis.

7. Implications

7.1 Legal

- 7.1.1** Legal advice should be sought as the strategy develops. Should the strategy identify a need to commission and procure services this should be undertaken in accordance with CEC Contract Procedure Rules and, where applicable, Contract Procurement Regulations 2015. Should any in kind support (including training) and/or grant funding be made available, consideration should be given to applying the criteria under the Council's corporate grants policy, to ensure organisations are treated in a fair manner. The data of the responders will be retained in accordance with the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018, and identities subject to anonymisation.
- 7.1.2** The strategy demonstrates the Council's adherence and commitment to its legal duties under the Care Act 2014. Any specific issues arising as the strategy develops, will be the subject of specific requests for legal advice as required.

7.2 Finance

- 7.2.1** There are no financial implications requiring changes to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as a result of the recommendation in this report.
- 7.2.2** The services which support the implementation and delivery of the strategy will continue to be bound by the financial limits within the Council's MTFS.

7.3 Policy

- 7.3.1** This draft strategy aligns with one of Cheshire East's Corporate Plan objectives, which is to "Reduce the reliance on long-term care by improving services closer to home and providing more extra care facilities, including dementia services".
- 7.3.2** The draft strategy reflects the national strategic direction outlined in the Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia which details ambitious reforms to be achieved by 2020.

7.4 Equality

- 7.4.1** An Equality Impact Assessment is included within Appendix 2.

7.5 Human Resources

- 7.5.1** There are no Human Resource implications arising from this report.

7.6 Risk Management

- 7.6.1** There are no Risk Management implications arising from this report.

7.7 Rural Communities

- 7.7.1** One of the issues raised within the draft strategy is the impact of dementia on those who find themselves socially isolated, this would include those living in rural areas. The strategy looks at how isolation can be reduced with appropriate transport or peer support groups.

7.8 Children and Young People/Cared for Children

- 7.8.1** The strategy looks at how we can ensure that young people are part of the community support for people living with dementia, and also how we can work with those in education to improve their awareness around dementia.

7.9 Public Health

- 7.9.1** Dementia has a significant impact on individual and population health and wellbeing in Cheshire East. Support provided by services is crucial for those already living with dementia and this strategy both acknowledges the often-avoidable difficulties faced by those affected by dementia and provides a welcome step forward in improving support for those living with dementia, their families and carers.
- 7.9.2** It is important to note that to reduce the population-level impact of dementia, we also need to actively work on prevention by supporting and enabling our residents to reduce their risk of developing dementia in the first place; a healthy diet, regular physical, mental and social activity, low alcohol consumption, and not smoking all reduce the risk of developing dementia.

7.10 Climate Change

- 7.10.1** There are no Climate Change implications arising from this report.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Joanne Cliffe Joanne.cliffe@cheshireeast.gov.uk 07785 556499
Appendices:	Draft Cheshire East Place Dementia Strategy Equality Impact Assessment Stakeholder Analysis
Background Papers:	Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia 2020 Living Well with Dementia - a national Dementia strategy