

READING HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

DATE OF MEETING:	16 th July 2021		
REPORT TITLE:	Alzheimer's Society Dementia Report and Implications for Reading		
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ORGANISATION :	Reading Borough Council		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The report provides a summary of the Alzheimer's Society Report on dementia, a summary of current work in Reading on dementia, and recommendations in the report to consider and take forward in Reading. Kielan Arblaster (Policy Officer), Jo Rice (Dementia Connect Local Services Manager) & Laura Vicinanza (Regional Public Affairs and Campaigns Officer) from the Alzheimer's Society will attend the meeting to present the report.
- 1.2 The report from the Alzheimer's Society looks at four stages of NHS England's 'Well Pathway for Dementia' - Diagnosing Well, Supporting Well, Living Well and Dying Well. It explores in detail what NICE and the Government say people in England should be receiving at each stage of the dementia pathway, and benchmarks it against the experiences of people affected by dementia. The key finding is to improve the quality, consistency and integration of care for people living with dementia to better enable them to live well. However, the research was done pre-COVID and so it is recognised that we also need to improve the dementia care pathway as we continue to respond and recover from COVID. The recommendations in this report fall under 4 themes; diagnosing well, supporting well, living well, and end of life.
- 1.3 Making Reading a place where people can live well with dementia is one of the priorities under the current Reading Health & Wellbeing Strategy. Whilst some of the work on dementia has been impacted by COVID efforts have continued to support diagnosis, and support people with dementia and their carer's. Services include memory clinics, dementia champions, dementia friends, dementia cafes, and strategic work. However, there is more we can do in Reading, and as we continue to respond and recover, we need to account for the recommendations in the national report to inform the dementia actions in the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 1.4 Appendices:
 - Appendix 1 - Alzheimer's dementia exec summary
 - Appendix 2 - Alzheimer's dementia full report
 - Appendix 3 - Local authority briefing recovery planning for people affected by dementia June 2021

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1** To consider the recommendations in the Alzheimer’s Society Report and to include dementia as a theme within the action plan that sits under the new Health and Wellbeing strategy under priority 2.

The development of the Health and Wellbeing action plan should also consider COVID recovery, supporting people living with dementia and their carers to recover from the effects of the pandemic.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 This work will contribute to the Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy, in particular priority 2, “support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives” for which people with dementia have been identified as a key group locally at risk of poorer health outcomes. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is the lead defining policy for the decision-making process around the dementia elements in the Reading action plan for this priority. This work will also be informed by the national Alzheimer’s Society report findings summarised here.

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 Current Position

Making Reading a place where people can live well with dementia is one of the priorities under the current Reading Health & Wellbeing Strategy. Whilst some of the work on dementia has been impacted by COVID the following services are in place, albeit different to pre-COVID, and some with funding concerns going forward

- Memory clinics for early diagnosis and support have continued but in a reduced form to account for social distancing.
- Dementia Champions, co-ordinated through the Dementia Friendly Reading Steering Group, have delivered Dementia Friends sessions on virtual platforms for local businesses and services wishing to understand how better to support people living with and affected by dementia.
- The Dementia Friendly Reading Group is working with the University of Reading to produce a dementia toolbox (AMuSED). This is an interactive box that aims to stimulate the brain, and engage a person living with dementia to promote positive memories through physical and visual techniques.
- The Berkshire West Dementia Steering Group has completed an FAQs guide to getting support around dementia during lockdown, including accessing NHS services to obtain a diagnosis of dementia.
- Dementia Cafés for people living with dementia are now being held virtually by Age UK Berkshire monthly and the Younger People With Dementia Charity continues to offer virtual social and stimulation activities throughout the week to support people living with or caring for someone with dementia to connect to others and offer peer support throughout COVID-19.
- Work with West Berkshire to develop a digital pathway for information and advice, from pre-diagnosis to end of life

4.2 Options Proposed

To consider the recommendations in the Alzheimer’s Society Report and to include dementia as a theme within the action plan that sits under the new Health and Wellbeing strategy under priority 2.

The development of the Health and Wellbeing action plan should also consider COVID recovery, supporting people living with dementia and their carers to recover from the effects of the pandemic.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO READING'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGIC AIMS

This work will directly contribute to priority 2 in the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy, "Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives".

6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

7. COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

This work will be directed by the Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy consultation process. Consultation thus far has contributed to the identification of people with dementia as a priority group. Further development of the local action plan will include public consultation, including around the proposed dementia actions.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy has taken due consideration for health inequalities as part of its development. Priority one in the strategy focuses on reducing the differences in health between different groups of people. And this work directly contributes to priority 2 "support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives" for which people living with dementia and their carers are a priority group.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 Alzheimer's dementia exec summary

Appendix 2 Alzheimer's dementia full report

Appendix 3 Local authority briefing recovery planning for people affected by dementia June 2021