

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY UPDATE REPORT

Health Liaison Board - 2 March 2016

Report of Chief Officer Communities & Business

Status: For Information

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: This report updates Members on this Council's involvement in the Dementia Friendly Communities Project

This report supports the Key Aim of providing the right support at the right time, reducing health inequalities and improving health and wellbeing for all

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Lowe

Contact Officer(s) Hayley Brooks Ext. 7272

Recommendation to Health Liaison Board:

Members are asked to note the report.

Reason for recommendation: Members are asked to note the report.

Introduction and Background

- 1 By 2020, 38 per cent of the population will be aged over 50 and the number of people aged 65+ diagnosed with dementia will increase by over 25%, particularly those with mild or moderate dementia. One in five people over the age of 65 will have a form of dementia.
- 2 The prevalence of Dementia increases with age, however this is not just an older person's disease as there are more than 40,000 younger people (under the age of 65) with dementia in the UK.
- 3 Over 9,100 residents of Kent are recorded to have Dementia, with over 20,000 undiagnosed cases; two-thirds of these people are living in their own home. Sevenoaks is one of four districts in Kent who expect to see the greatest increase in an aging population, and therefore the greatest increase in people with Dementia.
- 4 'Living Well with Dementia: A National Dementia Strategy' was published in February 2009. In March 2012, the Prime Minister sought to boost the impact of the National Strategy by issuing a personal challenge on dementia. One

aspect of that challenge was based on his view that communities and services need to be more dementia-friendly.

The Dementia Friendly Communities Challenge

- 5 The Local Government Information Unit's (LGiU) 'Four Cornerstones Model' clearly shows the potential for local authority services, beyond health and social care, to support local residents. The report states that it is important that councils take a corporate and strategic approach to dementia, harnessing this potential to support people with dementia and their carers to live well for longer.
- 6 The Model recognises that 'small changes can make a big difference' including how people respond to those experiencing these kinds of problems can make the biggest difference. People with dementia all differ in the way they experience their dementia, but generally speaking in public situations people with dementia may have a range of difficulties including:
 - Problems remembering what they are doing
 - Difficulties in communicating clearly
 - Problems handling money
 - Problems navigating in complex or confusing environments
- 7 As people get older, there are a number of changes in their senses' sensitivity simply due to ageing; these are heightened for people with dementia and can deteriorate more quickly. These include a reduction in: peripheral vision; sensitivity to colour contrasts; speed adapting to lighting levels and depth perception.

Sevenoaks District Council - Dementia Friendly Communities Project

- 8 This Council has already taken positive steps, as part of the Districtwide Dementia Friendly Communities Project, to implement best practice and lead the way to becoming more dementia and therefore community friendly. This work includes:
 - This Council, in partnership with Kent County Council, have set up Dementia Friendly Forums in the District, with the first two Forums now operating in Swanley and Sevenoaks Town. The Forums meet regularly and bring together people with dementia, carers, local businesses, residents and support organisations to develop local action plans. The aim of the forums is to raise awareness of dementia and work with local communities to enhance facilities for dementia sufferers to ensure they can continue to access services and facilities after diagnosis.
 - This Council has provided 'Dementia Friend' training for over 250 staff, Members and partners and continues to run monthly training sessions,

with a further 30 frontline staff trained as Dementia Champions. This training helps people to understand dementia and how it can affect people as well as providing information on support organisations locally and how to refer for support.

- A range of Dementia Friendly campaigns and events have been held in the District in partnership with GP's and two consultative events about understanding dementia, support carers and the needs in local areas.
- Six dementia cafes have been developed in Sevenoaks town, Swanley, Westerham, Hartley, West Kingsdown and Edenbridge and a number of carer support groups have been set up at these venues.

9 Some of the future work being planned to develop the Dementia Friendly project further include:

- A 'Shop Safe, Stay Safe' Scheme being launched in March 2016.
- Looking to improve signage in the public areas of the Council offices at Argyle Road.
- Dementia Friend training for licensed taxi drivers and drivers of Volunteer Transport Schemes being held in April 2016.
- Further awareness raising workshops, training and events to support carers and give a greater understanding of dementia.

Key Implications

Financial

10 This report is for information only and does not recommend any financial resources at this stage.

Non-Financial

11 Some Officer resources have been allocated to this project from within existing healthy living work already being undertaken by this Council.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

12 No decision is required as part of this paper and therefore no perceived impact on end users.

Conclusions

13 Members are asked to note this report.

Background Papers: Local Government Association - Developing Dementia Friendly Communities: Learning and Guidance for Local Authorities:

http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=b6401bb0-31a8-4d57-823b-1fde6a09290e&groupId=10180

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