

DEVON DEMENTIA WORKSTREAM UPDATE

Report of the Head of Service for Adult Commissioning and Health and the Deputy Chief Operating Officer, NEW Devon and South Devon & Torbay CCG.

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation:

That the Devon Health and Wellbeing Board support the approaches outlined within this report, which aim to: further raise awareness of dementia across Devon, to provide appropriate support post-diagnosis, and to reduce the potential stigma of diagnosis.

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### **1. Background and introduction**

- 1.1 This report follows the request from the board for assurance on actions to address the dementia diagnosis rate in Devon. For context, the report also outlines the current and predicted demand for dementia support services and the progress of the STP mental health dementia workstream.
- 1.2 Around 14,200 people in Devon are estimated to have dementia, nearly 2 per cent of the population.
- 1.3 The figure is expected to rise to around 25,000 in the next ten years, affecting nearly 3 per cent of the population, around 6.5% of the over 65's.
- 1.4 DCC works in partnership with the CCGs to commission dementia support services, with shared priorities, with funding through the Better Care Fund (BCF)
- 1.5 Ensuring that individuals receive a timely and appropriate dementia diagnosis is one of our key aims, as is providing the right services for individuals and their families post diagnosis.

### **2. Supporting people with dementia in Devon**

- 2.1 The Devon dementia steering group includes representation from health and social care commissioners and providers and the third sector, and reports to the STP Mental Health workstream. The group has the following priorities:

- People are supported to live healthier lives, reducing the risk of developing dementia.
- When necessary, there is an easy to access and timely pathway to dementia diagnosis.
- People are supported to live well with dementia, with personalised care planning and support.
- At every stage of the dementia pathway, appropriate care is provided to support people to remain in the most appropriate setting.

2.2 To better inform our commissioning priorities and to help us achieve the objectives set out above, we have conducted a gap analysis of provision in Devon. This was conducted in partnership with statutory and voluntary organisations across the county, and included learning from best practice and how we can replicate that.

2.3 We commission the following services to support people living with dementia and their families:

- **Dementia Advisor Service:** we have a contract with the Alzheimer's Society. A Dementia Adviser or Dementia Support Worker enables people with dementia and their carers to navigate the system and find the right information and support at the right time. We aim to expand this provision following national guidance and the learning from our gap analysis.
- **Memory Cafes:** we have grant-funded the Devon Memory Café Consortium. The Consortium supports people living with dementia and their carers through the Memory Cafe movement - making sure they have access to peer support, information, advice and meaningful activities.
- **Care home education and support:** a small pilot was funded last year with a view to expanding provision this year.
- Other services such as the **Carers contract**, and **grants to the voluntary sector**, also support those with dementia and their families

2.4 In addition to this, Devon County Council has recently signed up to a pilot with the Alzheimer's Society who are aiming for every Council Officer in England to be a Dementia Friend. A Dementia Friend learns about what it's like to live with dementia and turns that new understanding into action. This collectively helps to make our communities a better place for people with dementia to continue living their lives in the way they want to, for as long as they're able to.

### **3. Dementia diagnosis action plan**

3.1 The Prime Ministers Challenge on Dementia (2020) identified the importance of diagnosing individuals with dementia, to ensure they receive the most appropriate care and support. The prevalence rates were calculated and a target of two thirds (67%) diagnosis rate set.

3.2 Initially a nationally directed incentive for GPs was introduced, and the national target was achieved. Once the 67% had been reached for England in 2016, the scheme was ended, but this performance has not been sustained.

3.3 Revised NICE guidance on dementia was released in June 2018. This identifies two key changes that would have an impact on diagnosis:

- Due to the impact of the Memory Service, GPs may have become de-skilled in identifying and managing patients with dementia.
- There needs to be enough support available post-diagnosis, so that GPs can signpost to services to help support individuals and their families manage the condition.

3.4 Our current position is around 62%. Whilst there are localities within Devon which are exceeding this target, some areas are considerably lower:

| CCG              | CCG_Locality       | CCG_Sub_Locality     | Practice Name | Population aged 65+ | QOF                   |                       | Dementia prevalence estimates | Potential unmet need | Dementia diagnosis |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
|                  |                    |                      |               |                     | Dementia Register 65+ | Dementia Register 65+ |                               |                      |                    |
| NEW Devon        | Eastern Locality   | Exeter               |               | 26,482              | 1,237                 | 1,669.3               | 432.3                         | 74.1%                |                    |
|                  |                    | Mid Devon            |               | 28,751              | 930                   | 1,720.0               | 790.0                         | 54.1%                |                    |
|                  |                    | Wakley               |               | 24,664              | 1,107                 | 1,652.7               | 545.7                         | 67.0%                |                    |
|                  |                    | WEB                  |               | 14,453              | 635                   | 961.5                 | 326.5                         | 66.0%                |                    |
|                  | Northern Locality  | North Devon          |               | 43,024              | 1,584                 | 2,567.7               | 983.7                         | 61.7%                |                    |
|                  |                    | Riverside            |               | 12,356              | 379                   | 758.0                 | 379.0                         | 50.0%                |                    |
|                  | Western Locality   | SH&WD                |               | 28,078              | 931                   | 1,677.8               | 746.8                         | 55.5%                |                    |
|                  |                    | Tamar                |               | 15,530              | 487                   | 913.6                 | 426.6                         | 53.3%                |                    |
|                  |                    | Waterfront           |               | 15,953              | 682                   | 957.9                 | 275.9                         | 71.2%                |                    |
|                  |                    | Coastal              |               | 10,911              | 431                   | 685.2                 | 254.2                         | 62.9%                |                    |
| Sth Devon & Torb | Sth Devon & Torbay | Moor To Sea          |               | 11,118              | 297                   | 652.0                 | 355.0                         | 45.6%                |                    |
|                  |                    | Newton Abbot         |               | 16,583              | 697                   | 1,047.3               | 350.3                         | 66.5%                |                    |
|                  |                    | Paignton and Brixham |               | 20,949              | 857                   | 1,302.9               | 445.9                         | 65.8%                |                    |
|                  |                    | Torquay              |               | 16,508              | 689                   | 1,032.5               | 343.5                         | 66.7%                |                    |
|                  |                    |                      |               |                     |                       |                       |                               |                      |                    |

3.5 In order to address this variance, we are working with NHS England and other areas with similar demographics, to learn from their successes and to achieve the following trajectory until March 2019. As at July 2018, we are on track to meet this.

| Month                                                 | April | May   | June  | July  | August | September | October | November | December | January | February | March |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|----------|-------|
| Percentage of prevalence rate diagnosed with Dementia | 61.0% | 61.1% | 61.1% | 61.2% | 61.3%  | 61.4%     | 62.2%   | 63.1%    | 64.0%    | 64.9%   | 65.8%    | 66.7% |

3.6 We have identified several key actions which should assist in improving the diagnosis rate:

- Monthly reports for dementia diagnosis rates at practice and locality level, which can be cascaded out to GPs and used for targeted conversations.

- ii. As a result of feedback from secondary care, the pathway has changed so staff can refer directly to Memory Clinics rather than back to the GP for onward referral.
- iii. A GP Engagement event across Devon, to promote the services that are in place and to provide support in relation to the new NICE guidance
- iv. Working to implement consistent care home education and support across Devon, of which one of the outcomes will be increased diagnosis of individuals within these settings.
- v. Working with the providers of the Dementia Adviser Service to raise awareness of diagnosis pathways within primary care.
- vi. We have taken up the NHSE support offer and have linked with Brighton and Hove CCG to share ideas and initiatives.
- vii. Investigating whether the higher mortality rates over the winter had an impact on achieving the target.
- viii. Investigating the baseline prevalence rate calculations, which clinicians think may be inaccurate.
- ix. The CCG Medicines Optimisation Team will ensure that all individuals who are on medication for dementia have their diagnosis included within their GP record.
- x. CCGs to consider if a local enhanced service for GPs could be implemented to support an improvement in diagnosis rate.
- xi. Consider if providers could include the relevant GP system code on the diagnosis confirmation, to ensure that diagnosis information is included on the patient record and therefore included in the target.
- xii. Work with Exeter University as part of their existing study to help us with referral quality, self-assessment and waiting times.
- xiii. Work with the prevention lead to establish if there are joint messages that can go out from a Public Health perspective.
- xiv. Work with the Transform Aging programme, focussing on reducing the stigma and fear of dementia diagnosis. Use Design Council principles to identify suggestions for change.

#### **4. Legal Considerations**

There are no specific legal considerations at this time.

#### **5. Equality Considerations**

Improved and equitable access to an appropriate diagnosis will provide better outcomes for all individuals across the whole of Devon.

#### **6. Risk Management Considerations**

There is a risk that we will not achieve the dementia diagnosis rate set for Devon, and that this will impact on the appropriate care and support for individuals with dementia and their families.

The dementia diagnosis action plan has been assessed and all necessary safeguards or action have been taken/included to safeguard both the CCG's and the Council's positions.

## **7. Public Health Impact**

Many of the preventative measures for dementia are the same as those for preventing other health conditions. We are working with STP prevention leads to establish if there are joint messages that can go out from a Public Health perspective.

## **8. Conclusions**

- 8.1 Whilst we are currently not hitting our dementia diagnosis target, we have a robust and clinically-assured action plan in place to achieve it.
- 8.2 Alongside this, we also have a number of commissioned and grant-funded services to support people with dementia and their families to live well with dementia – as well as ensuring that those who have a diagnosis know where to access support to suit their changing needs.

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**Jo Turl**  
**Deputy Chief Operating Officer, NEW Devon and South Devon & Torbay CCGs**



**Electoral Divisions:** All

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care: Councillor Andrew Leadbetter

Chief Officer for Adult Care and Health: Jennie Stephens

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**  
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*Tel No: 01392 382300 Room: Annexe First Floor*

**BACKGROUND PAPER                      DATE                      FILE REFERENCE**

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| Dementia Diagnosis<br>Action Plan 1819 July                                         | Dementia Friends<br>Business Toolkit 201                                            |