

## **DEVON DEMENTIA WORKSTREAM UPDATE**

Report of the Clinical Chair of NHS Devon CCG, and the Joint Associate Director of Commissioning, DCC and NHS Devon 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: increase the dementia diagnosis rate; provide appropriate support post-diagnosis; further raise awareness of dementia across Devon and 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 our dementia support services and the progress of the STP mental health dementia workstream.
- 1.2 Around 17,935 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, and 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. Dementia diagnosis action plan**

- 2.1 The national target for dementia diagnosis is to diagnose 66.7% of the people who have dementia in each area. The target is the same nationwide, and there is a national formula which determines the local figure.

2.2 Devon STP performance towards this target has been flat and remains approximately 8% below the target:

**2018/19 STP Performance:**

| INDICATOR               | TARGET | Apr-18 | May-18 | Jun-18 | Jul-18 | Aug-18 | Sep-18 | Oct-18 | Nov-18 | Dec-18 | Jan-19 | Feb-19 | Mar-19 |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Dementia diagnosis rate | 67%    | 59.20% | 59.20% | 59.20% | 59.40% | 59.10% | 59.60% | 59.00% | 59.40% | 58.90% | 59.10% |        |        |

2.3 The 2018 dementia diagnosis plan for Devon is currently being reviewed and refreshed for 2019, and will include the following actions:

2.3.1 A clinical champion to spearhead the work: Dr Paul Johnson, clinical chair of NHS Devon CCG.

2.3.2 We have appointed a new CCG commissioning lead to work with GPs on implementing a specialist group to diagnose people in care homes who have dementia. They will work closely with the DCC dementia commissioning lead.

2.3.3 GP practice data is used to generate the STP figure, but we know that diagnosis levels are not always accurately recorded in GP practice systems, leading to under-reporting. To address this, we are taking the following actions:

2.3.4 Engagement events with GPs. These are an opportunity to explore any barriers to recording/reporting with GPs and reiterate the importance and value of recording diagnoses, including the following:

- I. Assurance that the STP has commissioned support services, including dementia support workers for families and carers whose roles include signposting and advocacy. It is important that people with dementia can benefit from these services via a diagnosis
- II. A reminder that GPs are financially incentivised to diagnose dementia via the Quality and Outcomes Framework. This is standard national practice.

2.3.5 Pathway mapping with GPs so they can understand how to refer and where they can get support

2.3.6 Ensuring diagnosis is recorded on GP systems when dementia is diagnosed by other providers, such as Devon Partnership NHS Trust and Livewell Southwest

2.3.7 Dr Paul Johnson has written to all GPs, asking them to record diagnoses and highlighting the above

- 2.3.8 Ensuring people in care homes who are diagnosed with dementia have that diagnosis recorded in GP systems.

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

- 3.1 The Devon dementia steering group includes representation from health and social care commissioners, providers and the third sector, and reports to the STP Mental Health workstream. Membership will be increased from April to ensure we incorporate the views of those with lived experience. The group has three core priorities for 2019/20:

- i. Ensure consistent and formal diagnosis will be available for all those who are presenting with dementia related symptoms.
- ii. A clear diagnosis pathway across the STP and a personalised care plan for all those with a diagnosis.
- iii. Proactive liaison and support for care homes.

- 3.2 The NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) guidance for carers includes carers of people with dementia. Following a joint workshop focusing on the guidance, commissioners and providers of services for carers and for people with dementia are working together in a joint approach, ensuring quality and choice of service provision. The dementia carers pathway booklet that was originally written by the Devon Memory Café consortium is now being adapted for a wider carers pathway document overseen by carer's ambassadors.

- 3.3 DCC and NHS Devon CCG commission the following services to support people living with dementia and their families:

- i. **Dementia Support Workers:** 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 are expanding this provision in North Devon with an enhanced service provided in partnership with DPT. There will be six additional dementia support workers and two mental health nurses based in GP surgeries in the Barnstaple and Bideford area providing support to individuals with a diagnosis of dementia and their carers. This is overseen by a project group that includes carers, an Admiral nurse and currently recruiting volunteers with lived experience.
- ii. **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. There are over 60 memory cafes in Devon, the most in one county in the South West. We are supporting the consortium with the introduction of a quality

assurance programme that is aimed at ensuring a consistent high standard of support, services and activities.

- iii. **Care home education and support:** to support care homes so they are able to look after people with more complex conditions in appropriate care home settings. This includes education about nutrition and hydration and end of life care.
  - iv. Other services such as the **carers contract**, and **grants to the voluntary sector** also support those with dementia and their families.
- 3.4 In addition to this, Devon County Council is part of a pilot with the Alzheimer's Society with the aim of every Council Officer in England being a **Dementia Friend** – so far, 217 DCC officers are recorded as Dementia Friends. 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.

#### 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 could impact on individuals with dementia and their families receiving the appropriate care and support.

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

#### 8. **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.

#### 9. **Conclusions**

- 9.1 Whilst we are currently not hitting our dementia diagnosis target, we have a robust and clinically-assured action plan in place to achieve it.
- 9.2 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.

**Dr Paul Johnson**  
**Clinical Chair, NHS Devon CCG**  
**Tim Golby**  
**Joint Associate Director of Commissioning, DCC and NHS Devon CCG**

**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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BACKGROUND PAPER                      DATE                      FILE REFERENCE