

Executive Summary – Isle of Wight Dementia Strategy

Background

Dementia is fast becoming the UK’s largest health and social care challenge. Dementia prevalence on the Isle of Wight is high and expected to increase with a predicted increase of 24% in the population of over 85 year olds in the next 10 years. There are currently an estimated 2655 people over the age of 65 living with dementia on the Island and due to our aging population and increasing life expectancy this number is estimated to increase to 3920 by 2030. This increase in dementia prevalence will have a significant impact on services delivered by health, social care and out community and voluntary sectors.

A number of key national and local policies, plans and strategies introduced over the past 10 years have done little to improve the support and care offered to people living with dementia on the Isle of Wight. In 2019 it was agreed that a system wide approach was needed and partners from the IWC, IW NHS Trust and IW CCG approached the voluntary and community sector and asked them to lead on the development of a system wide Isle of Wight Dementia Strategy. This piece of work has been led by Carers IW, Healthwatch IW, Alzheimer Cafes IW and Age UK IW, recognising that they are the people working most closely with people with dementia and their families and therefore best placed to lead on meaningful public engagement to understand what people need. A strategy working group including partners from all statutory and voluntary sector organisations have worked together to develop the new Isle of Wight Dementia Strategy.

Public Engagement during 2019

An extensive programme of public engagement including targeted engagement with people living with dementia and their family carers was carried out during 2019. This highlighted the following:

- ❑ Some people reported a poor diagnosis experience with little empathy and inadequate information and advice of what to do next
- ❑ Families need a named contact who can provide support when needed and especially at times of crisis
- ❑ Carers need flexible respite options to enable them to take a break from their caring role
- ❑ There is a need for better dementia awareness training for GPs and other professionals
- ❑ People would benefit from a central Dementia Hub with staff trained to provide advice and help as well as offering social activities
- ❑ Better public dementia awareness is needed to break down the taboos
- ❑ Staff in many residential and domiciliary care settings require specialist dementia training in order to deliver better standards of care

Dementia Services stocktake completed during 2019

A detailed stocktake of the current provision of dementia services was carried out using data from Adult Social Care, Public Health, IW NHS Trust and the voluntary sector. This highlighted the following key challenges:

- ❑ Poor quality secondary care for people with dementia who have complex needs with services receiving “inadequate” CQC ratings and no multi-disciplinary mental health service
- ❑ People with dementia having longer stays in hospital impacting on their physical and emotional wellbeing
- ❑ Social care reviews for people with dementia are often overdue
- ❑ A lack of support co-ordination, advice and information following dementia diagnosis or when somebody falls into crisis
- ❑ Dementia diagnosis rates are below the national target and waiting times for diagnosis are long

Isle of Wight Dementia Strategy 2022-2025

This strategy has been developed with valued and honest input from all partners and the working group have ensured that the voice of people with lived experience remains central to the final document. The strategy working group have made every effort to ensure that the IW NHS Trust’s programme of mental health transformation is informed by the feedback from our public engagement and is aligned to the outcomes identified in this strategy. This will lead to shared system priorities providing the best opportunities for improved and jointly developed pathways of care and support for people living with dementia on the Isle of Wight.

Recommendation

Cabinet approval of the system wide Isle of Wight Dementia Strategy, enabling the strategy to progress for approval by the Integrated Care Partnership.