

Wiltshire Council

Health and Wellbeing Board

28 September 2023

Subject: Wiltshire Dementia Strategy 2023-28

Executive Summary

This joint, all-age dementia strategy is guided by a vision where we work together to make Wiltshire an inclusive, vibrant, supportive place for people with dementia, and their family members and carers, to live. Our work will be underpinned by prevention and early intervention, tackling inequalities, understanding our communities, and promoting independence.

Proposal(s)

The Wiltshire Dementia Strategy 2023-28 is attached, including appendices which summarise our priorities, detail about our demographics and prevalence, and the wealth of co-production and engagement that fed into the strategy. Further details will be provided via a PowerPoint presentation at the Board.

It is recommended that the Board:

- i) Approves and signs off the Wiltshire dementia strategy 2023-28
- ii) Notes the governance arrangements for its implementation.

Reason for Proposal

Dementia is one of the biggest challenges of our time. Almost one million people live with dementia in the UK and 1 in 11 people over the age of 65 have dementia. In Wiltshire, we have one of the fastest growing numbers of older people. Between the 2011 and 2021 Censuses, Wiltshire was one of only three local authorities in the South West whose 65+ population grew by more than 30%. This is highly relevant to this strategy because age is the biggest risk factor for developing dementia, although dementia is not a natural part of ageing.

This strategy describes how we will work together to make Wiltshire an inclusive, vibrant, supportive place for people with dementia and their family members and carers to live. It describes the national and local context, and sets out five priority areas which have come out of significant co-production and engagement.

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Subject: Wiltshire Dementia Strategy 2023-28

Purpose of Report

1. To provide a summary of the joint, all-age Wiltshire Dementia Strategy.

Relevance to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

2. This strategy describes how we will work together to make Wiltshire an inclusive, vibrant, supportive place for people with dementia and their family members and carers to live. It is underpinned by prevention and early intervention, tackling inequalities, understanding our communities, and promoting independence.
3. The strategy uses population data to assess current and forecast future prevalence and demand on services.

Background

4. Dementia is an umbrella term to describe a set of symptoms caused by a number of conditions. 95% of people with dementia have one or more of four main diseases¹:
 - The most common cause of dementia is Alzheimer's disease, which accounts for around two thirds of people living with dementia.
 - Up to 20% of people with dementia have vascular dementia.
 - Around 15% have dementia with Lewy Bodies.
 - Fewer than 5% have fronto-temporal dementia.
5. There are approximately 8,300 people living with dementia in Wiltshire, although not all these people will have a diagnosis. Based on the prevalence of dementia by age and the recent 2021 Census data, we can accurately predict that around 5,200 women (62.7%) and 3,100 men (37.3%) in Wiltshire have dementia.
6. Wiltshire's population is getting older. This is highly relevant to this strategy, as age is the biggest risk factor for developing dementia. We know that Wiltshire's older population will continue to grow in the next 20

¹ A description of the most common types of dementia can be found at <https://www.dementiauk.org/about-dementia/types-of-dementia/>

years, and this means the number of people living with dementia (and especially living with *advanced* dementia) will grow significantly.

7. This strategy reflects national policy and guidance, but without the huge contributions of local people, it would not be possible to produce a plan which works for people in Wiltshire. The strategy puts the voice of people with dementia and their families, carers and friends at the forefront of our plans.

Main Considerations

8. This strategy sets out a vision of a dementia-friendly Wiltshire, where we work together to make Wiltshire an inclusive, vibrant, supportive place for people with dementia, and their family members and carers, to live. Our work will be underpinned by prevention and early intervention, tackling inequalities, understanding our communities, and promoting independence.
9. Through consultation and co-production, five priorities have been identified, along with “I statement” outcomes that we aim to achieve:

Priorities

Preventing well

- I was given information about reducing my risk of getting dementia

Diagnosing well

- I know where to go if I think I may have dementia
- I was diagnosed with kindness and compassion, in a timely way
- I am able to make decisions and know what to do to help myself, and who else can help
- I know where to go to understand more about dementia

Supporting well

- I am treated with dignity and respect
- I get treatment and support which are best for my dementia and my life

Living well

- I know that those around me and looking after me are supported
- I feel included as part of society

Dying well

- I am confident my end of life wishes will be respected
- I can expect a good death

Co-production and engagement

10. The Wiltshire Dementia Strategy is driven by the voices of people with dementia and carers, as well as the views of the wider public and professionals. Over 400 people, including more than 150 people with dementia and/or unpaid carers, took part in the development of the strategy and told us what was important to them. Appendix 4 of the strategy provides a detailed summary of what people told us.

Next Steps

11. A detailed implementation plan will be developed following the sign-off of the principles set out in this strategy.

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