

Wiltshire Council

Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee
16 December 2010

Funding for Dementia services in Wiltshire

Executive summary

This paper outlines the situation with regards to the allocation of funding for dementia services in Wiltshire by Wiltshire Council for the periods 2009/2010 and 2010/2011.

Proposal:

That the Committee:

1. Notes the funding and resources allocated to dementia services by Wiltshire Council.

Reason for proposal

The Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee requested that Adult Care Services provide a report detailing the resources allocated to dementia services in Wiltshire.

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Funding for Dementia Services in Wiltshire

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information to committee members with regards to funding that is allocated to dementia services by Wiltshire Council.

Background

2. The Wiltshire Joint Strategy and Commissioning Plan for Mental Health Services were published in 2008. Those documents, which cover services for adults of all ages, set out our strategic objectives for the development of mental health services for the five year period from 2009-2013. They also signalled our intention to undertake further work on developing services for people with dementia within the context of the National Dementia strategy.
3. The Wiltshire dementia strategy "Living well with dementia" was published in February 2009 and acknowledges the impact that dementia can have on individuals and their families. It emphasises the need to develop services that maximise the quality of life of people suffering from dementia as well as providing appropriate support for their carers.
4. We estimate that there may be as many as 6157 people suffering from dementia living within the Wiltshire boundary and that this number will increase to 9776 by 2025. It is essential therefore that all services for older people are equipped to meet the needs of those with dementia. The National Strategy outlines 17 key objectives and associated outcomes that health and social care commissioners and providers are expected to meet over a five year period. The Wiltshire dementia strategy outlines NHS Wiltshire and Wiltshire Council's local strategic intentions and joint commissioning plan for improving services for people living with dementia and their families.

Main Considerations for Members

5. To note the provision of resources for dementia services in Wiltshire as provided by Wiltshire Council.
6. Wiltshire Council provides funding for a range of services and support for people with dementia and their families and carers on an annual basis.
7. In total for 2009/2010, Wiltshire Council spent £13.25 million on dementia services, which includes services for the person with dementia, as well as their families and carers. For 2010/2011 Wiltshire Council's full year forecast spent for dementia services is £13.05 million.
8. It should be noted that whilst this is the most accurate figure that can be produced for this exercise, a more intensive process took place in 2009, which examined all individual care packages. This exercise identified that annual spend for dementia services was £14.2 million. The difference between figures can be explained by several issues:

- Many people with dementia will not be primarily recorded as having dementia and instead will be recorded as an older person. This therefore means that the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 figures do not capture these individuals and the related funding, and the process of doing so is incredibly time and labour intensive.
 - A number of specialist services are provided to people with dementia by Wiltshire Council, but which are commissioned as parts of larger generic block contracts and are therefore recorded and captured as such. This therefore means that the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 figures do not capture these individuals and the related funding, and the process of doing so is incredibly time and labour intensive.
9. The services funded by Wiltshire Council in both 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 are provided through a variety of methods and organisations and include:
- Home care services, information and advice and day activities provided by the Alzheimer's organisations
 - Memory cafes and Singing for the Brain groups
 - Memory support group
 - Individual community care packages and placements - these represent the majority of the funding for dementia services
10. There are also many generic services funded by Wiltshire Council which provide support to people with dementia and their families and carers, such as advocacy and carers support, the associated costs of which are complex to identify and are not provided in this report.
11. It should be noted that in Wiltshire, based upon prevalence figures for people with dementia, only three in ten people with dementia in Wiltshire have been diagnosed as such. Based upon this, it is highly probable that there are a large number of people receiving social care services that Wiltshire Council funds who have dementia, but are yet to be diagnosed and therefore recorded as such. Therefore, the funding figures provided are likely to be lower than the true value of services provided, as services can only be reported when they are recorded against a diagnosis.

Conclusion

12. It is concluded that Wiltshire Council has and continues to provide funding for a wide range of dementia services to ensure that people with dementia and their families and carers are supported to live good quality and fulfilling lives within Wiltshire.

Report Author

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Background papers

None