

29 January 2012

Dementia Programme

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Cllr B. McCracken – Social Care and Health

Executive Summary:

Older People's Mental Health update

New service specifications for community mental health teams and inpatient wards out for comment by the trust. The specifications were developed by commissioners from Dudley and Walsall together with Professor Susan Benbow of Older Mind Matters.

Dementia Friendly Communities update

The Project underway for Walsall's Dementia Friendly Communities work which was supported at scrutiny the last time the dementia programme was presented.

Memory Service update

Current waiting times following additional funding to reduce waiting times and a new Memory Assessment Service model agreed by Walsall C.C.G.

Early intervention in dementia

Trials and pilot of CANTABmobile, an iPad based dementia screening tool.

Technology and dementia

Short presentation of technology used in dementia and demonstration of some dementia apps'.

Reason for scrutiny:

Concerns were previously raised by members at the low rate of diagnosis of dementia in Walsall of the expected prevalence and the long waiting times for assessment, diagnosis and treatment in the Memory Service.

A general update of the dementia programme to inform members of Walsall's progress in implementing the national dementia strategy.

Recommendations:**That:**

1. Members note the report and continue supporting the dementia programme
2. Members support a dementia awareness campaign


Background papers:

None

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1. Report

1.1 Older People's Mental Health update

The Strategic Health Authority gave each commissioning area a small amount of funding to support CCG developments. Dudley and Walsall PCT/CCG areas chose to combine their funding and commission Professor Susan Benbow of Older Mind Matters to work with them on developing brand new service specifications for older people's mental health. Professor Benbow was a consultant psychiatrist for 30 years, chaired the Faculty of Old Age Psychiatry at the Royal College of Psychiatrists, is professor at the Centre for Ageing and Mental Health at Staffordshire University, is an author of numerous publications including co-author of some key policy documents and has a PHD in family therapy. She therefore brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to support the development of services.

Walsall are co-developing these specifications with Dudley as we share the same mental health provider. All of the issues raised with commissioners have been addressed in the new specifications and will result in improved partnership working, a more responsive service, faster access for previous users and colleagues from other services will be able to refer into the service.

Commissioners have now presented the latest drafts of the specifications to DWMHPT and are awaiting a formal response to them.

1.2 Dementia Friendly Communities update

Further to the previous dementia programme update and members supporting the Dementia Friendly Communities work, 400 hours of Dementia Friendly Communities (DFC) development work has been commissioned from the Alzheimer's Society and Pathways4Life (Age UK & Accord partnership). They will deliver an agreed package to local businesses in order to help them to become more dementia friendly. The package consists of dementia awareness, communications skills needed in dementia care, an environmental action plan and the development of dementia champions. Service users and carers in Walsall have chosen a logo for this work which will become the health and council approved kite mark and the priority group of businesses. They are supermarkets and GP reception staff. The project group have suggested pharmacy staff also as they have frequent contact with users and carers following GP visits.

The national lead for DFCs contacted the dementia programme lead and expressed an interest in Walsall being a whole system case study for their 'stage 2' work. If the rest of the Prime Minister's group agree, Walsall's dementia programme will be formally written up.

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence are publishing guidance on whole system dementia commissioning. NICE asked for two case studies from Walsall when we were recommended by the Strategic Health Authority. They are for the joint commissioner role and personalisation. A document describing the way Walsall is implementing the national dementia strategy in a whole systems way is linked from this document. The guidance is due to be published soon.

1.3 Memory Service update

Latest Waiting times: New staff have been recruited for reducing the waiting times which have fallen by approximately 50%. No formal figures have been received as yet but have been requested.

A new Memory Assessment service has been agreed by Walsall GPs which may see an additional four nurse posts and six personal assistants in dementia. The personal assistants will provide practical and emotional support immediately following diagnosis and help service users and their carers make the necessary adjustments to plan for the future and signpost them to appropriate support. This will mean that for most people from referral to commencing treatment will be less than four weeks. The service will also have the capacity for the increase in numbers anticipated.

1.4 Early intervention in dementia

Eight GP surgeries and two hospital departments are currently trying out CANTABmobile, a ten minute dementia screening tool using an iPad. A pilot with the Alzheimer's Dementia Support Worker working under the supervision will also take place from April for the next twelve months. Discussions and a possible further pilot are taking place regarding pharmacists being ideally suited to undertake this screening where people present at pharmacies with concerns about their memory.

The latest diagnosis figures have been published by the Alzheimer's Society for 2012 (although they appear to be 2011-2012 QoF dementia lists). Walsall has risen from 28% of the dementia prevalence diagnosed when the strategy was published to 36%. Walsall is no longer the lowest in the West Midlands (Herefordshire 33%) and is gaining ground on some of its neighbours. The average rate in England is 44.3% and 43% in the West Midlands.

There are several reasons for low diagnosis rates:

- Incorrect assumption that there is nothing that can be done;
- Lack of support once diagnosed;
- Stigma;
- Lack of dementia awareness.

1.5 Technology and dementia

There are several areas of assistive technology which can benefit people with dementia and help to maintain people living independently for as long as possible and therefore remain in their own home, rather than move into care homes. A presentation will be delivered to the members at the meeting.

There are a number of apps' which have been tested in care homes in Herefordshire and Worcestershire and these were evaluated by Worcester University. Residents and their families in care homes voted for their favourite apps; some of which will be demonstrated for the members.

Walsall has purchased 20 iPads and is purchasing the dementia apps, five RemPods (described in the presentations) and ten memory boxes to be loaned out to care homes to encourage more therapeutic activity.