



## Report to Cabinet

**Date:** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**Title:** **The Dementia Journey: a rapid review of support for people living with dementia and their carers in Buckinghamshire**

**Relevant councillor(s):** Cllr Carol Heap, Chairman of the Review Group

**Author and/or contact officer:** Liz Wheaton, Principal Scrutiny Officer

**Ward(s) affected:** All wards

### **Recommendations:**

The Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee Review group make the following recommendations, grouped together under the NHS England Dementia Well Pathway which has been adopted by Buckinghamshire.

### ***Overview***

**Recommendation 1** – Develop a multi-agency Buckinghamshire Dementia strategy with specific action plans aligned to the Dementia Well pathway which brings together activities from across the health and social care system and local communities.

**Recommendation 2** – Review the membership of the Dementia Strategy Group to include a broad representation within each pathway to ensure a strong, collaboration of key people responsible for delivering the dementia strategy.

### ***Preventing Well***

**Recommendation 3** - Commitment by Public Health and Primary Care to provide a renewed focus on increasing the take-up of the NHS Health check for eligible 40-74 year olds. A memory discussion should be part of all health checks and a more consistent approach to the information provided to patients as part of the health check should be agreed.

**Recommendation 4** – Public Health to include risks associated with dementia as part of all relevant public health campaigns, particularly on cardiovascular disease, so people make the connection that lifestyle choices affect both the heart and the brain.

**Recommendation 5** - School Liaison Officers to explore whether a dementia awareness programme for all school age children could be developed and promoted to all schools in Buckinghamshire to help reduce stigma, address cultural differences and create a better understanding of dementia and what support is available.

**Recommendation 6** – The BetterPoints initiative to be more widely promoted across Buckinghamshire to include all Members, council staff, BHT staff, South Central Ambulance Service staff, Oxford Health staff, Community Boards, voluntary and community groups and all PCNs.

### ***Diagnosing Well***

**Recommendation 7** – Oxford Health to provide clarity about medication reviews to those people who are receiving dementia medication and to include contact details of who to speak to about dementia medication.

**Recommendation 8** – Social care commissioners to review the memory service provided in Oxfordshire and consider introducing dementia support workers at the memory clinics to provide a joined-up service to those who have just been diagnosed.

**Recommendation 9** – Primary care, social care commissioners and the Dementia Support Service to work together to develop a consistent approach to memory screening and reduce waiting times across the county. To clarify and promote the pre-diagnostic support available.

**Recommendation 10** - Each Primary Care Network to introduce a named dementia specialist to co-ordinate the screening and pre-diagnostic support within primary care and to work closely with the Alzheimer’s Society Local Dementia Advisers to deliver screening training to those nominated across the PCNs.

### ***Supporting Well***

**Recommendation 11** – Adult Social Care (ASC) to ensure they refer people with memory concerns to the appropriate person – GP or social prescriber/named dementia specialist for a memory screening assessment and for those people with a dementia diagnosis, ASC need to refer to the Dementia Support Service.

**Recommendation 12** – Agreement by the Integrated Care Board to additional investment in dementia support services for Buckinghamshire to address the current under investment in services. Additional investment to be used to provide a better integrated service across all pathways, with clear lines of responsibility.

**Recommendation 13** - The recommendations in Healthwatch Bucks report on young onset dementia should be progressed alongside these recommendations in this report and therefore progress will be reported to the HASC Select Committee.

**Recommendation 14** – Care homes to be part of the development of the Buckinghamshire Dementia Strategy and develop closer working between primary care network social prescribers, including the named dementia specialist, voluntary groups and local care homes to develop dementia specific activities to meet the needs of the local community.

**Recommendation 15** – Care homes, primary care, hospital care and social care partners to encourage the use of “This is me” to help capture information on the person with dementia. Reassurance from BHT that the John’s principles around the right to stay with people with dementia is part of the care offered during Hospital stays.

### ***Living Well***

**Recommendation 16** – The community engagement team to lead on mapping current provision and highlight the gaps in support services with input from social prescribers, social care commissioners for day opportunities and community board managers with their local community groups. If the recommendation above to have a dementia specialist within each PCN is implemented, then we would encourage them to be part of this exercise.

**Recommendation 17** – Consideration to be given to using existing space at the council-owned day centres at Buckingham, Aylesbury, Beaconsfield, Chesham, Wycombe and Burnham to accommodate dementia cafes, dementia support groups and other activities (both voluntary and commissioned) to increase access to these services across the county.

### ***Dying Well***

**Recommendation 18** – Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust educators work with the council’s community engagement team, library services, voluntary groups and community board managers to re-introduce and develop a series of “Big Conversation” events across the county on a rolling basis.

**Reason for decision:** For Cabinet to consider the recommendations of the Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee.

## **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 According to the Alzheimer's Society website, there are currently around 900,000 people living with dementia in the UK and there are projected to be over 1 million people with dementia in the UK by 2025. This is projected to rise to nearly 1.6 million in 2040. These numbers demonstrate the increasing scale and impact of dementia and the urgent need for action to be taken to meet current and future care needs. The NHS Long-Term Plan identifies dementia as a key priority and it is noted as one of the top causes of early deaths for people in England.
- 1.2 As of September 2022, 4,164 people were diagnosed with dementia (aged 65+) in Buckinghamshire. The current rate of diagnosis is 57.3% against a national target of 66.7%. The estimated prevalence is 7,266 meaning 3,102 people live with dementia but remain undiagnosed (as per NHS Digital report) which means they are not accessing appropriate support. It is estimated that there may be at least 240 people with young onset dementia in Buckinghamshire.
- 1.3 The Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee agreed to set up a rapid review into dementia support services for people living with dementia and their carers in Buckinghamshire. The scoping document was agreed at the Select Committee's meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023.
- 1.4 A small group of councillors volunteered to participate in the rapid review. Evidence gathering meetings, with a number of stakeholders, took place across three full days on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The review was chaired by Cllr Carol Heap and comprised of Cllrs Shade Adoh, Phil Gomm, Robin Stuchbury, Nathan Thomas and Alan Turner. Following the evidence gathering meetings the review group then met to discuss and agree its key findings and recommendations, which are presented in the report found at Appendix 1.

## **2. Other options considered**

- 2.1 Appendix 1 provides further context to the Select Committee's recommendations. Cabinet is asked to consider these recommendations and provide a response to the recommendations relevant to the Council.

## **3. Legal and financial implications**

- 3.1 These will be considered as part of the Cabinet's response.

#### **4. Corporate implications**

4.1 These will be considered as part of the Cabinet's response.

#### **5. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views**

5.1 The report and recommendations were produced by a cross-party review group of Members from the Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee.

#### **6. Next steps and review**

6.1 As the focus of this review is on the provision of dementia support services across a myriad of organisations, a number of the recommendations are aimed at the Integrated Care Board and the Place-based Partnership, as well as specific recommendations for Oxford Health, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and voluntary/community organisations. Representatives from these organisations have been asked to respond to the recommendations relevant to them. Cabinet will provide a response to the Select Committee recommendations aimed at the Council. The Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee will then receive an update after 6 months and 12 months to monitor the implementation of all the recommendations.

#### **7. Background papers**

7.1 None.

