



Recommendations from the Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee Rapid Review Group into support for people living with dementia and their carers in Buckinghamshire

Chairman of the Review Group – Cllr Carol Heap

Principal Scrutiny Officer – Liz Wheaton

Response from Buckinghamshire Council’s Cabinet and Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (ICB)

| Recommendation | Cabinet/ICB Response Agree/Not Agree/Agree in Part to the recommendation & comments | Cabinet Member/Lead Health Partner/Lead Officer & timelines for delivery |
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| <p>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.</p> | <p>Agree</p> <p>The Strategic Approach and Direction to tackling Dementia is set by the multi-agency Dementia Steering Group and will be informed by the National Major Conditions Strategy and review of the current all Age Mental Health Strategy that expires in 2023.</p> <p>A specific action plan has been developed to align with the Dementia Well pathway. This will be reviewed on a routine basis and will be aligned to the Government’s Major Conditions Strategy when published. Implementation and monitoring will be led by the multi-agency Dementia Steering Group.</p> | <p>Dementia Strategy Group: Adrian Timon / Dr Sian Roberts</p> <p>Strategic approach to be steered by the Dementia Strategy Group.</p> <p>2024</p> |
| <p>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</p> | <p>Agree</p> <p>The Buckinghamshire DSG already includes a wide range of stakeholders – primary and secondary care providers, Buckinghamshire Council, Alzheimer’s Society, Carers Bucks dementia friendly community groups,</p> | <p>Dementia Strategy Group: Adrian Timon, Integrated Commissioning, Buckinghamshire Council</p> |

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| <p>strategy.</p> | <p>the dental profession and Health Education England.</p> <p>However, following the Committee’s recommendation the DSG will explore extending its membership to ensure it has the strongest collaborative stakeholder group. The DSG will seek to include Care Home commissioner and provider representation, and a Councillor with an interest in dementia.</p> | <p>DSG meetings are bi-monthly so recommendation completion will be August 2023.</p> |
| <p>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 question 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.</p> | <p>Agree in part</p> <p>The Council, Integrated Care Board and Primary Care teams are committed to increasing the uptake of the NHS Health Check for eligible residents. The NHS Health Check is a nationally mandated scheme and as such the requirements of this are set out in the national specifications. Those specifications currently include a memory section for individuals aged 65 and older.</p> <p>As the scheme is set out nationally, both the NHS Health Check programme and wider primary care would need additional resources to extend this memory section to younger ages.</p> <p>Healthcare practitioners delivering the Health Checks receive annual training. The Council’s Public Health team will ensure the importance of the memory question for residents aged 65+ is emphasized during this training. A review of this portion of the NHS Health Check will be undertaken to identify any further support and guidance necessary to ensure consistent and effective delivery.</p> | <p>Buckinghamshire Council: Angela Macpherson, Cabinet Member Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Tiffany Burch, Consultant in Public Health Medicine</p> <p>Improvements to training programme delivered this financial year.</p> <p>Quality assurance will be ongoing as each practice is visited once a year.</p> <p>Ongoing.</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>Agree</p> <p>The Council agrees that the risk factors for dementia should be more widely communicated, so that people make the connection that lifestyle choices affect both the heart and the brain.</p> <p>For cardiovascular disease campaigns including Love Your Heart Bucks and the NHS Health Checks campaign, messaging will be included to highlight that ‘what is good for the heart is good for the brain’. Communications for these two campaigns will include explicit mention of dementia.</p> | <p>Buckinghamshire Council: Angela Macpherson, Cabinet Member Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Tiffany Burch, Consultant in Public Health Medicine (cardiovascular disease campaigns)</p> <p>Sally Hone, Public Health Principal (Healthy Lifestyle campaigns)</p> <p>Timelines – Love Your Heart Bucks is a 3-year programme that ends in 2024/25. Dementia will be included in the online and physical resources and messages.</p> |

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| | | <p>NHS Health Check campaigns are delivered 1 to 2 times per year every year.</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>Agree in part</p> <p>The education team will be asked to signpost the following resources to PSHE leads, for use in the PSHE curriculum or as part of Dementia Awareness Week in May 2024: https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-involved/dementia-friendly-communities/dementia-teaching-resources/schools.</p> <p>In addition, an agenda item and paper will be shared with Head Teachers through the liaison groups. Although it is likely that Head Teachers would be reluctant to commit time to developing this programme at this point in the term, information and resources that could be used would be welcomed.</p> | <p>Buckinghamshire Council: Anita Cranmer, Cabinet Member Education and Children’s Services</p> <p>Gareth Drawmer, Educational Services, Buckinghamshire Council</p> <p>Carol Stottor, Public Health PHSE Lead</p> <p>July 2024</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>Agree</p> <p>BetterPoints Bucks launched in January and has already engaged with these specific stakeholders in a number of ways. These have included presentations, briefings, internal comms within networks and emailing known contacts. Materials have also been provided for consistent promotion of the app across all stakeholders. Conversations continue with community boards, local businesses and BHT about how they can support the programme, with presentations to primary care staff and at community events planned in the coming months. Continued support from stakeholders is required to promote the programme across available channels.</p> <p>An evaluation of the launch period is being finalised which indicates the success of social media in promoting the app. A toolkit is being developed for use by all stakeholders to strengthen awareness raising and engagement with the initiative.</p> <p>Additionally, a workplace challenge will be launched in Autumn 2023 for all Council and NHS staff. Engagement with the app now will be integral to the success for the challenge later this year.</p> | <p>Buckinghamshire Council: Angela Macpherson, Cabinet Member Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Sally Hone, Public Health Principal</p> <p>Ongoing – programme running until December 2024</p> |

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| <p>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.</p> | <p>Agree (already taking place)</p> <p>At present, everyone prescribed medication following a diagnosis of dementia is requested to contact the Memory Assessment Service two weeks after starting treatment, to establish their tolerance to treatment and re-order a further supply of medication. This is communicated both verbally and in writing (including clear contact details for the service) to the individual and/or carer at the time of diagnosis.</p> <p>A face-to-face follow-up review takes place three months after the start of medication following a diagnosis of dementia. This is to review the effectiveness of the treatment.</p> <p>A new Dementia Prescribing Pathway has been agreed at the local level, which enables primary care to start medication for dementia (without the need for a shared care prescribing arrangement) on the advice of the Memory Assessment Service. This is in keeping with NICE recommendations from 2018.</p> <p>Oxford Health will continue to address medication queries and offer reviews of the tolerance and effectiveness of medication, to guide treatment decisions.</p> <p>The Memory Assessment Service is presently being re-modelled to improve assessment capacity. The new service will go live in July 2023.</p> | <p>Oxford Health Foundation Trust:</p> <p>Dr Chris Ramsay, Associate Medical Director for Older Adults Mental Health (Bucks)</p> <p>Theresa McLarty, Service Manager, Older Adult Community Mental Health Teams (Bucks)</p> <p>Sarah Hill, Head of Service, Adults and Older Adults Community Mental Health (Bucks)</p> <p>July 2023</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>Agree in part</p> <p>The Dementia Support Service (DSS) attends alternate Memory Clinic venues, delivering monthly group Post Diagnosis Information sessions to people who have been given a diagnosis and their carers.</p> <p>Due to lack of capacity within the service and a lack of space at the clinic sites, it has not been possible to provide a Dementia Adviser at memory assessments. A business case seeking an uplift of funding to enhance the DSS offer has been presented and approved both by the Council and the joint commissioning executive. However, the service is funded through the Better Care Fund and both the ICB and Council will need to determine the level of funding for the financial year 24/25.</p> | <p>Buckinghamshire Council:</p> <p>Angela Macpherson, Cabinet Member Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Tracey Ironmonger, Integrated Commissioning</p> <p>Integrated Care Board:</p> <p>Philippa Baker, Buckinghamshire Place Director</p> <p>March 2024</p> |

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| <p>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.</p> | <p>Agree in part</p> <p>Memory screening can be performed in the community in primary care clinicians (GPs and nurses). In addition, some PCN (Primary Care Networks) Social Prescribers have also been trained to conduct memory screening. The ICB continues to promote the benefits of screening to PCNs, however as PCNs are autonomous, the ICB cannot mandate that the PCNs must adopt this model.</p> <p>It is important to note that memory screening does not itself reduce waiting times for a dementia diagnosis. People who are found to have cognitive decline on the memory screening are referred to the Memory Assessment Service (MAS) for a definitive diagnosis. Unfortunately, in Buckinghamshire there is a significant wait list for the MAS (a legacy of Covid), although the Memory Assessment Service has an action plan to increase capacity and reduce the waiting times.</p> <p>Patients living in care homes can be diagnosed without a referral to MAS and Buckinghamshire is participating in an NHSE sponsored pilot (Diadem) which includes improving memory screening and diagnosis.</p> | <p>Dementia Strategy Group</p> <p>March 2024</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>Agree in part (funding and training resources would be required)</p> <p>Supporting pre-screening and diagnostic work within the PCN population is a sensible approach. As mentioned above, some PCN Social Prescribers have already been trained and are conducting memory screening in the community. The ICB can share this as an example of best practice to other PCNs, who may want to do similarly. However, PCNs are autonomous and the ICB cannot mandate that PCNs must adopt this model. In addition, training would need to be sourced and sustainable (as PCN staff have a significant turnover). This could be with an external provider eg Alzheimer’s Society.</p> <p>PCNs do have leads for specific areas (e.g. mental health, cardiovascular, care home etc.) but these are all funded positions. If each PCN was to have a dementia lead, resources would need to be considered.</p> | <p>Integrated Care Board: Philippa Baker, Place Director, Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System</p> <p>March 2024</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>Agree</p> <p>To improve knowledge of dementia support and services, the Council’s ASC locality team leads will promote the link to the Dementia Toolkit and “This Is Me” resources with staff at team meetings. The Dementia Support Service will also be invited to team meetings to raise more awareness and understanding of dementia services to staff. In addition, locality teams will</p> | <p>Buckinghamshire Council: Angela Macpherson, Cabinet Member Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Patience Mudambanuki, Adult Social Care Operations, Buckinghamshire Council</p> |

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| | develop their links to social prescribers in PCNs. | Ongoing Review March 2024 |
| 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. | Agree in part The business case for additional investment is ongoing, and funding is under consideration for the financial year 24/25. | Integrated Care Board: Philippa Baker, Place Director, Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System March 2024 |
| 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. | Agree in part Activity is already in place to develop support for people with young onset dementia (YoS). The Dementia Support Service offers peer support sessions for YoS and the Dementia Toolkit includes a section specifically for YoS as it is acknowledged that needs are different from those older patients with dementia. Options for further enhanced care is under consideration. | Dementia Strategy Group Dementia Support Service: Alzheimer’s society March 2024 |
| 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. | Agree It is estimated that 70% of care home residents are likely to have dementia – yet few have a diagnosis. A diagnosis will enable the staff to deliver appropriate personalised care (Enhanced Health in Care Home Framework). Therefore, the DSG will extend an invitation to care home commissioners and the care home provider group to join the DSG. This will ensure that these key stakeholders are integral in developing Buckinghamshire’s strategic approach and contribute to the ongoing development of the dementia action plan. | Dementia Strategy Group August 2023 |
| 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. | Agree in part Maintaining and respecting dignity for those with Dementia is vital. However, this recommendation is agreed in part based on lack of budget to revise the Red Bag Scheme across Buckinghamshire care homes and the challenges of developing a comprehensive Care Home forum to agree a single approach. 1. “This is Me” – It is possible to use “This is Me” within acute hospitals, but care homes tend to have their own versions of a resident history. It will take time to make “This is Me” the preferred and only document across all settings. Encouraging widespread use of this tool will be recommended to the DSG at its next meeting for inclusion in the Buckinghamshire dementia | Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust: Jo Birrell, Nurse Consultant Older People, Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust June 2023 - agreed documents for a Cognitive Bundle in all Acute and Community services within BHT and shared with Oxford and Berkshire West. July 2023 - promoted the cognitive bundle to care homes within |

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| | <p>action plan.</p> <p>2. John's Campaign – From a BHT perspective embedding John's Campaign is part of the Carers Passport and remains work in progress. This is in part because some carers who previously have wanted to be involved in their loved ones care are now saying they see the hospital admission as a break from the level of responsibility. Promotion of John's Campaign principles will be recommended to the DSG at its next meeting for inclusion in the dementia action plan. BHT and OHFT will be asked to assure the DSG that they are operating John's Campaign in their respective Trusts.</p> | <p>Buckinghamshire.</p> <p>July 2023 - cascaded John's Campaign teaching to all services in Buckinghamshire.</p> |
| <p>16. The Dementia Strategy Group to undertake an exercise to map 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.</p> | <p>Agree</p> <p>The DSG action plan includes a Living Well section for those with dementia and will include the mapping exercise to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review current provision 2. Identify gaps <p>The Council's Integrated Commissioning team are currently undertaking an exercise to map current provision and highlight the gaps in support services. All stakeholders, including social prescribers, will be consulted as part of this work. The DSG could act as a steering group to facilitate this piece of work and this will be proposed at the next meeting. The Community Boards, in conjunction with the Community Engagement & Development team, have agreed to support the mapping exercise as appropriate.</p> | <p>Buckinghamshire Council: Angela Macpherson, Cabinet Member Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Tracey Ironmonger, Integrated Commissioning, Buckinghamshire Council</p> <p>Wendy Morgan-Brown, Partnerships and Communities, Buckinghamshire Council</p> <p>November 2023</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>Agree</p> <p>The Council-run Short Break Day Services currently have space which could be used for dementia cafes or dementia support groups. The Council would be supportive of working with any voluntary or commissioned organisation to see whether space in the buildings would be appropriate.</p> | <p>Buckinghamshire Council: Angela Macpherson, Cabinet Member Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Thomas Chettle, ASC Operations, Buckinghamshire Council</p> <p>May 2024</p> |
| <p>18. Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust educators work with the council's 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.</p> | <p>Agree in part</p> <p>Subject to resource capacity and availability, BHT is keen to work with the Council to develop 'Big Conversations' across Buckinghamshire. The topics that could be discussed include, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions to make on the dementia journey • Behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD) – the impact on carers and how to cope | <p>Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust: Jo Birrell, Nurse Consultant Older People, Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust</p> <p>Supported by Buckinghamshire Council: David Jones, Library Service, Buckinghamshire Council</p> |

- Active walking and risks in dementia
- Dementia and delirium – the difference, the relationship and management outside of acute hospitals

The Library Service is also keen to contribute to a series of 'Big Conversation' events and is well positioned to support this initiative with a network of safe and accessible community spaces. Buckinghamshire library staff are trained as dementia friendly champions and the library service has developed partnerships e.g. Alzheimer Society and local care homes to provide services and support to people living with dementia including memory bags, reminiscences collections, the introduction dedicated 'Cosy Corners' with information points and recommended book stock.

The Library Service will link with the relevant Community Boards to support the work where appropriate.

Ongoing. To be reviewed by April 2024