

Rapid Review Scope

Title	The Dementia Journey – a rapid review of support for people living with dementia and their carers in Buckinghamshire
Signed-off by	Cllr Jane MacBean, Chairman, Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee and Cllr Carol Heap, Member of Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee
Author	Liz Wheaton, Principal Scrutiny Officer
Date	Scope to be discussed at the HASC Select Committee meeting (9 th February 2023)
Rapid Review Group Membership	TBC
Scrutiny Team Resource	Liz Wheaton, Principal Scrutiny Officer
Lead Cabinet Member	Cllr Angela Macpherson, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
Lead Service Officers	Jack Workman, Specialist Commissioning Manager and Adrian Timon, Commissioning Manager
What is the problem that is trying to be solved?	<p>National context</p> <p>The following extract from the Alzheimer’s Society website sets the context for this review.</p> <p><i>“There are currently around 900,000 people 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.”</i></p> <p>The NHS Long-Term Plan identifies dementia as a key priority and it is noted as one of the top five causes of early deaths for people in England. There is a clear emphasis on improving the care and support for people living with dementia whether in hospital or at home and a commitment to continue working closely with the voluntary sector, including supporting the Alzheimer’s Society to extend its Dementia Connect programme.</p> <p>According to the NHS Digital website, since 2012, the NHS has been seeking to ensure that patients suffering from dementia are given a formal diagnosis so that they can receive appropriate care and support. The national target is for two thirds of people with dementia to be formally diagnosed.</p>

	<p>Local context</p> <p>Part of the Council’s Better Lives Strategy focusses on dementia services. In June 2022, following a gap analysis, Adult Social Care transformation board approved a number of workstreams with a view to improving the care and support available for people living with dementia. Funding to support dementia is part of an integrated approach to commissioning services between health and social care and requires system-wide agreement to deliver these services.</p> <p>In 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. <i>To note – national performance has been significantly impacted by the pandemic and is currently 62.2%.</i></p> <p>Dementia support is provided by a myriad of organisations and clear, coherent pathways are an essential part of ensuring the person living with dementia receives the right level of support at the right time. Supporting people to live independently for longer has a positive impact on the health and social care system, so ensuring the appropriate level of care and support for people living with dementia and their carers is a key part in achieving this.</p>
<p>What might the Rapid Review achieve?</p>	<p>It is proposed to hold evidence gathering sessions across two or three days which would conclude with recommendations being developed and reported to Cabinet and other key partners.</p> <p>The review would look to achieve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater understanding of the prevalence of dementia including the current diagnosis rates against the national target by Primary Care Network in Buckinghamshire; • Understanding provision and level of funding across the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System for dementia support and services; • Clarity around who is responsible for delivering the services in each of the pathways in Buckinghamshire from diagnosis to accessing services, ongoing support and end of life care; • Clarity around how the services are funded and how secure the funding is within each pathway; • Examine the quality of signposting services and advice provided to dementia patients following diagnosis, including support and information for carers; • Review the waiting times from referral to assessment for the memory clinic services;

- Review the current waiting times for carer assessments;
- Explore the involvement, co-production and engagement in developing dementia care journeys to help empower all people affected by dementia, including the partnership working with local communities and the voluntary sector.
- Identify potential gaps in the current pathways and thus lead to improved working practices.

Key lines of enquiry:

- Examine the existing pathways from diagnosis to end of life for patients living with dementia and the support provided to carers and how many people currently access the different services within each pathway;
- Establish the timeframes and key deliverables in each workstream for improving dementia services, part of the Council's Better Lives Strategy Dementia Transformation Programme;
 - Explore the level of collaboration and engagement from key stakeholders in developing these workstreams;
 - Explore the work of the Dementia Strategy Group, including membership and terms of reference;
- Review the current diagnosis rates against the national target and explore the plans to improve the rates;
- Assess the action plans for improving the waiting times for memory clinic assessments;
- Review the waiting times for carer assessments and explore the key challenges associated with completing these assessments;
- Identify examples of what is working well and explore what good looks like in each pathway - this will include hearing from people living with dementia and those supporting people living with dementia.

By investigating the above, outcomes will include:

- Provide greater opportunities to enhance closer partnership working between the council and key stakeholders in supporting pathways for people living with dementia and their carers;
- Provide assurances around developing a joined-up, cohesive and whole system approach towards dementia services and identify potential opportunities to develop this further within the pathways;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness of dementia support services and provide a platform to discuss future plans for developing the services.
Is the issue of significance to Buckinghamshire as a whole and is the topic within the remit of both Select Committees?	Yes
What work is underway already on this issue?	<p>Adult Social Care Dementia Services Transformation programme is part of the Better Lives Strategy - this includes the work of the Dementia Strategy Group.</p> <p>Healthwatch Bucks is undertaking a project around the early onset of dementia.</p>
Are there any key changes that might impact on this issue?	<p>In May 2022, Government announced that a 10-year Dementia Strategy would be published but this is currently on hold.</p> <p>Locally, progress is being made in each of the workstreams identified as part of the transformation programme and is reported on monthly via a highlight report to the Council's Transformation Board. Business cases are being prepared, including around day opportunities, dementia connect expansion and support for carers which could impact on the overall dementia services offer.</p> <p><i>The newly formed Integrated Care Board for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West has resulted in the abolition of local Clinical Commissioning Groups. The recent appointment of a Place Director for Buckinghamshire to promote and deliver local health and social care plans provides an opportunity to ensure Buckinghamshire residents receive comparable dementia services within the BOB ICB.</i></p>
What are the key timing considerations?	This will be a focussed rapid review.
Who are the key stakeholders & decision-makers?	<p>Cllr Angela Macpherson, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing Craig McArdle, Corporate Director Jack Workman, Specialist Commissioning Manager – All Age Mental Health Adrian Timon, Commissioning Manager, Adults and Health Directorate Niki Cartwright, Director for Joint Commissioning, BOB ICS Dr Sian Roberts, ICB GP Lead, Mental Health Philippa Baker, Place Director (Buckinghamshire)</p> <p>Representatives from: Oxford Health Public Health</p>

	Adult Social Care Local Medical Committee Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust South Central Ambulance Service End of Life Care Healthwatch Bucks Alzheimer's Society Dementia patients and carers Voluntary action groups Dementia UK Carers Bucks
What is out of scope?	
What media/communications support do you want?	None identified at this stage

Evidence-gathering Methodology

What types of methods of evidence-gathering will you use?
List them here: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop research • Meetings • Discussions with other local authorities
How will you involve service-users and the public?

Outline Project Plan

Stage	Key Activity	Dates
Scoping	Inquiry Scope agreed by HASC Select Committee	9 th February 2023
Evidence-gathering	Evidence-gathering phase – anticipate 2-3 full days of meetings with key stakeholders	March 2023
Reporting	Final Review Group report with recommendations completed	April 2023
	Report published with Select Committee papers	12 April – agenda publication date
	Select Committee agrees report to go forward to decision-makers	20 April – Health & Adult Social Care meeting
	Cabinet/Partners consider recommendations	May – Cabinet meeting

Definition of a Rapid Review

A Rapid Review is a focussed investigation with fairly narrow parameters, that can be conducted in a relatively short time scale. For example, you may hold three or four meetings as a review group – one to establish and understand what the key issues are, one or two to gather evidence from service users or other authorities to gain insight into best practice and a final meeting to discuss what members have heard and identify any useful recommendations. A rapid review format will be useful when considering less complex issues and may be helpful in delivering 'quick wins' for the Council's service users and residents.

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