

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN AGE WELL PARTNERSHIP DEMENTIA STRATEGY BRIEFING PAPER

INTRODUCTION

The Blackburn with Darwen Age Well Partnership has identified and agreed that the improvement of support for local people living with dementia and their carers and families is a strategic priority and that a local plan to achieve this should be developed. This has been endorsed by the Blackburn with Darwen Health and Wellbeing Board which holds the Age Well Partnership to account.

This briefing paper aims to set out the collective ambition and priorities of Blackburn with Darwen as a place and has been developed to feed into and influence the strategy being developed by the Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB and the relevant individual strategies and plans that key health and care partners have.

The Age Well Partnership is a sub group of the Blackburn with Darwen Health and Wellbeing Board with responsibility for oversight of the 'Age Well' priorities in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It is also identified as a life course board within the emerging Place-Based structures. Membership of the partnership is drawn from all the health and care organisations across the public and voluntary sectors which work with older people.

LOCAL CONTEXT

As at July 2022, GP practices in Blackburn with Darwen had a total of 1,066 patients, aged 65 or over who had been formally diagnosed with dementia. NHS Digital estimates the true total to be nearer 1,568, meaning that 68% of those affected have received a diagnosis (England average is 62%).

The London School of Economics (LSE) has produced modelled projections for the Alzheimer's Society, showing how the number of older people (aged 65+) with dementia in each local authority, and the cost of their care, is likely to increase between now and 2030. For Blackburn with Darwen, they suggest that the total number of people with dementia will rise by almost 35%. The majority of this increase will be at the more severe end of the spectrum. This helps to account for the fact that care costs will rise even more steeply, by over 64%

AMBITION

Blackburn with Darwen's ambition is to

- *Raise awareness of the factors which increase the risk of developing dementia to support behaviour change*
- *Work with older people with dementia to maximise their opportunities to have an active life and remain involved in the things they wish to do*
- *To have the best support offer which enables people who are living with dementia and their carers to live well and independently for as long as possible*
- *For those at the later stages of their life to experience well planned and co-ordinated care and support in a timely manner*

KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES to achieve this ambition

Raise awareness of the factors which increase the risk of developing dementia to support behaviour change

- Delivery of an ongoing campaign to raise awareness of the factors which increase the risk of developing dementia and how to reduce these risks, including using the NHS Health Check programme as a key driver for awareness and early identification
- Increased awareness amongst the public and professionals of the benefits of early diagnosis to encourage those experiencing memory or cognitive problems to seek advice earlier.

Work with older people with dementia to maximise their opportunities to have an active life and remain involved in the things they wish to do

- Promotion and support for the development of dementia friendly environments accompanied by a programme of dementia awareness training for all public facing workforces
- Use of a consistent strength-based approach to working with people living with dementia which recognises that life can be positive and people still have a contribution to make
- Delivery of accessible programmes and activities which support people to live well and remain part of their community, to continue with things that are important to them, reduce loneliness and isolation and increase physical activity

To have the best support offer which enables people who are living with dementia and their carers to live well and independently for as long as possible

- A diagnostic pathway which is easily accessible to all sections of the older population and an understanding of the cultural needs of different groups
- Proactive, accessible and timely post diagnostic support delivered through flexible models which are also accessible to all sections of the older population. This support should be available throughout a person's dementia journey as required, not only at the point of diagnosis
- Awareness raising amongst both the public and local workforce of the importance of advanced care planning and Power of Attorneys to support people to have as much choice and control over their future, as possible, for as long as possible
- A dementia care pathway which focusses on maintaining independence for as long as possible including the provision of assistive technology and aids and adaptations
- A health and care workforce which is trained in dementia support no matter what service or discipline they work in, recognising that people living with dementia also access general or other specialist services.
- Pathways to access physical health services and preventative programmes such as screening are adapted and flexible to ensure they are accessible for people with dementia
- Timely and appropriate support for carers and family members of people living with dementia to both support carer wellbeing and enable them to support independence for as long as possible.

For those at the later stages of their life to experience well planned and co-ordinated care and support in a timely manner

- Timely access to appropriate co-ordinated escalation support to respond to a deterioration in a person's condition or health which carers know how to access easily.

- Specific support for people living with dementia who are admitted to an acute setting with a focus on reablement and recovery
- An end of life strategy which recognises the particular factors needed to support a good death for someone living with dementia and their loved ones.

Key messages from Blackburn with Darwen

- As a place we are fully supportive of the development and delivery of the ICS strategy and keen to actively participate and contribute to this
- We recognise that there will need to be both an ICS and place based approach to the development and delivery of quality dementia support
- We recognise that this will take a whole system approach and will require resource and support to communities to achieve many of the outcomes
- We would ask for regular engagement with and updates to our Age Well Partnership, as the lead strategic body in Blackburn with Darwen for issues related to ageing as part of the monitoring and local assurance of ICB activity

Blackburn with Darwen Age Well Partnership
Agreed May 2023