

By: Mr Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

To: County Council – 15 December 2011

Subject: Select Committee: Dementia – a new stage in life

Summary: To comment on and endorse the report of the Select Committee on Dementia

1. Introduction

The Adult Social Care and Public Health Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee proposed the establishment of a Select Committee to look at issues around services and support for people living with dementia in Kent. This was agreed by the Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee (now the Scrutiny Board) at its meeting on 16 October 2009 following publication of a National Dementia Strategy in February of that year. On 28 September 2010 the Coalition Government published its own implementation plan for the Strategy: Quality outcomes for people with dementia: Building on the work of the National Dementia Strategy. The Select committee was established shortly before Christmas 2010 and determined from the outset to keep as a central focus of the work, the views and concerns of people with dementia and their family carers.

2. Select Committee

2.1 Membership

The Chairman of the Select Committee was Mrs Trudy Dean, other members being Mrs Ann Allen, Mr David Brazier, Mr Alan Chell, Mr John Kirby, Mr Steve Manion, Mr Ken Pugh and Mr Avtar Sandhu. In addition, Mr Leslie Christie was co-opted onto the Committee.

2.2 Terms of Reference

The Select Committee agreed draft Terms of Reference in December 2010 and determined that the scope would remain flexible until a number of key issues had been identified by people with dementia and carers taking part in the review. Final terms of reference were:

To examine issues around the '9 Steps' of 'Quality Outcomes' for people with dementia and their carers in Kent¹.

The 9 Steps Draft synthesis of outcomes desired by people with dementia and
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¹ Department of Health (2010)

their carers: By 2014, all people living with dementia in England should be able to say:

- I was diagnosed early
- I understand, so make good decisions and provide for future decision making
- I get the treatment and support which are best for my dementia, and my life
- Those around me and looking after me are well supported
- I am treated with dignity and respect
- I know what I can do to help myself and who else can help me
- I can enjoy life
- I feel part of a community and I'm inspired to give something back
- I am confident my end of life wishes will be respected. I can expect a good death.

To identify good practice and innovation in Kent and elsewhere, that could contribute to achievement of the '9 steps'.

To identify factors militating against achievement of the '9 steps' and make recommendations for improvements.

2.3 Evidence

The Committee obtained information from a variety of sources to inform the review and began its work with an informal training and briefing session hosted by the Alzheimer's Society, followed by visits to a number of sites including care homes, peer support groups and memory cafes. Oral and written evidence was gathered from stakeholders including people with dementia and family carers. An invitation was extended to carer and client groups to comment and two consultation events were held for people living with dementia, carers and supporters; one in East Kent and one in West Kent, in collaboration with the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS), Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust -East Kent. The views of people living with dementia and family carers remained central throughout the review process. A focus group comprising professionals involved in different aspects of dementia health and social care met twice during the review to inform the Terms of Reference and later to contribute to Members' discussion of recommendations.

2.4 Timescale

Having begun its work with a training/briefing session in January 2011, the Select Committee conducted a programme of visits during February and formal hearings during March and April. Following a break in May, there was then a period of written evidence gathering and consultations. The Select Committee met with the Cabinet Member and Directors on 22 July 2011 to receive and discuss draft recommendations following which a report was compiled during the summer. A draft report was sent for comment to a number of people living with dementia; carers and the professionals' focus group. The report was finalised after a further meeting of stakeholders in October and was well received by the Adult Social Care and Public Health Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10th November.

3. The Report

3.1 A copy of the Executive Summary and recommendations is attached as Appendix 1. The full report will be available on the [Council website](#) or a hard copy can be obtained by request to the Overview and Scrutiny Team (overviewandscrutiny@kent.gov.uk or 01622 694269).

4. Conclusion

4.1 I would like to congratulate the Select Committee on completing this challenging piece of work.

4.2 I would also like to thank all those witnesses, particularly people living with dementia and their carers, who gave evidence to the Select Committee and the officers who supported it.

4.3 The report was welcomed by the Adult Social Care and Public Health Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee to whom it was presented, by the Chairman of the Select Committee Mrs Trudy Dean, on 10th November.

5. Recommendations

5.1 The Select committee be thanked for its work and for producing a useful and encouraging document.

5.2 The witnesses and others who provided evidence and made valuable contributions to the Select Committee be thanked.

5.3 The Select Committee report and its recommendations be endorsed by the County Council subject to resources being identified

Background Information:

Department of Health (2010) Quality outcomes for people with dementia: Building on the work of the National Dementia Strategy. [Online]. London: DH Available from: http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_119828.pdf [Accessed September 2011]

Report

http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council/how_the_council_works/decisions/overview_and_scrutiny/select_committee_reports/dementia_select_committee.aspx

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