

## Agenda Item 12(b)

### Select Committee on Dementia: note of informal meeting 11.09.09

#### Present:

Cllrs Georgia Wrighton, Averil Older

Cathy Caley (joint commissioner, OPMH), Carey Wright (SPFT), Giles Rossington (O&S)

#### Apologies:

Cllrs Pat Hawkes, Dawn Barnett

#### 1 Discussion:

- 1.1 Members met to review progress and to discuss the future direction of the Select Committee.
- 1.2 Having already examined services for diagnosis and early intervention, members thought it would be sensible to further explore the pathway of dementia care, looking separately at community support (i.e. care provision which aims to maintain patients in their own homes, including 're-ablement') and at residential services (e.g. care homes and end of life care).
- 1.3 Members also thought it might be valuable to hear from people with dementia and their carers. It was not considered appropriate to hold a large scale public meeting, as this might prove logistically challenging (also the Select Committee is not really in a position to investigate individual issues with care provision which would likely arise from a large public event) . Rather, it was decided that the Alzheimer's Society (or other stakeholders) should be approached to see if they could suggest some possible witnesses from their contacts: witnesses willing to talk generally with members about their experience of living with/supporting people with dementia.
- 1.4 Members therefore proposed holding three additional meetings:
  - 1 Community Support
  - 2 Users and Carers
  - 3 Residential Services
- 1.5 Members also discussed some other potential topics, including:

- Local PCT policy re: the prescription of Aricept (donepezil) for Alzheimer's (and more generally, the local application of NICE guidance for treating/supporting dementia)
- Housing Strategy re: dementia - e.g. whether the council considers dementia issues when determining its OP/Sheltered Housing/Extra Care Housing provision (i.e. whether people with dementia are prioritised for supported housing which might enable them to continue living independently etc.)
- Acute Hospital Care - e.g. what provision is there for dealing with people who have dementia/diagnosing dementia in terms of general hospital care (i.e. how do hospital staff communicate with patients who have dementia but are in hospital for the treatment of another condition? Do hospital services actively seek to determine whether patients admitted for falls etc. have dementia?)

**1.6** Rather than hold an additional meeting to cover these topics, members agreed to try and discuss prescribing and NICE guidance in the first meeting, and Housing Strategy and Acute Hospital Care in the third meeting. The revised meeting schedule is therefore:

- 1 Community Support (+ NICE guidance/Aricept)**
- 2 Users and Carers**
- 3 Residential Services (+ Housing issues + acute care issues)**

However, extra meetings can be scheduled if necessary.

**1.7** If all members are OK with this way forward, we will be in touch to agree on dates for future meetings.