

Appendix 1

Extract from Adult Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of the 5th March 2009.

Agenda Item 69 Scoping Paper on Possible Future Ad Hoc Panels

Dementia strategy.

Living well with dementia, the national strategy was launched by the Government in February this year. It outlines 3 key steps to improve the quality of life for people with dementia and their carers. These are;

- Ensuring better knowledge about dementia and removing the stigma
- Improving diagnosis of dementia
- Developing a range of services for people with dementia and their carers.

These 3 aims are underpinned by 17 objectives requiring a response from local authorities, health providers and Primary Care Trusts. The objectives of most relevance to the Council include;

- Raising awareness of Dementia. The expectation here is not just within the statutory providers but across all bodies who have significant interaction with the public e.g. transport providers.
- Improved community personal support services. These services should include specialist home care services. A pilot is underway with the Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust exploring the effectiveness of this service.
- Housing support including telecare. The strategy calls for the development of different housing models to include monitoring of extra care housing and exploring the use of assistive technologies in enabling people to remain within their own homes.
- Improved quality of care for people living in care homes. This will require a workforce strategy to ensure staff have the necessary skills and knowledge and ensuring that quality monitoring is robust.

Other issues within the strategy will require a response from partner agencies such as improved GP awareness, improved quality of hospital care and the provision of a dementia advisor to signpost people to information and support and assist access to health and social care.

Scope of potential overview.

This is the first ever strategy covering Dementia to be published so is new ground nationally and for the authority. The strategy has ambitious and wide reaching implications; however the Department of Health states that it is at the

discretion of Councils to prioritise the implementation of the strategy. The overview work could include;

- An analysis of the current level and quality of service
- An analysis of 'best practice' across the country
- Consideration of the demography of the City from the Joint strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and how this should shape our response
- Consideration of how the strategy will include people with learning disabilities. Valuing People Now, the recently published follow on to the Valuing People white paper is clear that other strategies should be scrutinised to ensure that they are inclusive of this group. There is also a high prevalence of Dementia within this group
- Consideration of how the implementation of the carers strategy will include those caring for someone with Dementia
- Consideration of the housing and assisted technology issues arising from the key objectives
- Consideration of gaps arising from the above analysis for Brighton and Hove
- Recommendation for prioritisation and implementation of the strategy including Value for Money considerations

Summary

The strategy has wide reaching implications for the shape of services within the City. The implementation of the strategy has financial implications however there is no new funding available to meet the expectations placed on the authority. Whilst welcoming the very positive aspects of the strategy, consideration will need to be given to access criteria and resources.