

Housing, Health & Communities Committee	
Meeting Date	28 th October 2025
Report Title	Dementia Update
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Charlotte Hudson, Head of Housing & Communities
Lead Officer	Sarah-Jane Radley, Community & Partnerships Manager
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. The committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 The report provides an update on the progress of the work to raise awareness and understanding of dementia within the borough, so that people living with dementia can continue to live in the way they want to and remain part of their community.

2 Background

- 2.1 Council carried a motion on 7 October 2020 commending the work being carried out across the borough through partner agencies and proposed activities to be delivered which included, delivery of Dementia Friends training to frontline staff, council officers and members, environmental checks to the facilities to ensure the facilities are dementia friendly, review employment practices, write to schools to promote learning about the subject, develop collaborative partnerships with DAA and become a signatory of the National Dementia Declaration.
- 2.2 Much of the delivery of the activities listed pre-date the formation of the Community & Partnerships Team, however we can confirm that HR delivered a series of Dementia Friends training to staff from across the organisation with attendees including frontline staff, as well as SMT and Councillors, we became a signatory of the declaration, and additional promotional activities were delivered as part of the Dementia Friends initiative.
- 2.3 Through our corporate safeguarding responsibilities, officers will support any resident identified as experiencing dementia, or friend/family member supporting someone; through appropriate signposting and referrals. This includes through the work of the multi-agency vulnerability panel which discusses complex cases and may include those experiencing dementia as part of other concerns. Staff have also undertaken mental capacity assessment training and have working

knowledge of the challenges faced by those experiencing dementia and how this may impact them appropriately accessing our services.

- 2.4 The Member Grant Scheme has provided funding to a variety of causes including the islands Dementia Café run by Paul Murray and Age UK who have delivered a variety of dementia related activities.
- 2.5 Staying Put who provide a Home Improvement Scheme, often support residents who require advice and support due to the effects of dementia. They work closely with Social Services and Health to ensure that the correct support is in place and are working on new digital mechanisms that can assist people in their homes.
- 2.6 The following are suggested activities to continue the work of raising awareness and understanding of dementia:
 - A new round of Dementia Friends training be delivered across the council, to include frontline staff, those working with potentially vulnerable groups and councillors to provide increased knowledge and access to support.
 - Promote the free dementia event which includes a virtual tour. Ask the Experts is taking place on Monday 6th October 2025.
 - Continued promotion of events, activities and groups where residents can access support and advice through existing mechanisms, including HR, Comms, external networks and making use of dedicated promotional weeks such as Safeguarding Adults Week.
 - Engage with a property review of Swale House frontline access to assess facilities to make the building Dementia Friendly for visitors.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to **note** the contents of the report.

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 4.1 Consideration has been made in relation to extending project work within this subject area, however due to current staff and funding resources we are restricted and therefore can only deliver what has been proposed at this time.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 To ensure that we are linking with existing delivery mechanisms and promotional activities that we can work alongside, we have discussed with internal departments and the voluntary sector, who have provided us with a variety of support offers and activities.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Community – Enabling residents to access support, advice and information to enable a more comfortable life. Health & Housing – Enabling residents to access specialist support, advice and information to enable improved health and wellbeing.
Financial, Resource and Property	Limited resources within Community & Partnerships Team to deliver outside of the proposals listed. Swale House review – potential cost implications to make changes to the facilities to enable the building to be Dementia Friendly. Exact cost currently unknown until the review has been carried out, however this could link to the changes being delivered as part of the Customer Access Strategy.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	None identified at this stage
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	None identified at this stage
Health and Wellbeing	The Councils Empowering You Strategy, Priority 3, Growing Healthy Communities, continues to ensure that the council promote access to specialist advice, support and information to enable residents to improve health and wellbeing.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	The Councils existing safeguarding policy and procedures already ensures appropriate responses are in place to signpost and support any resident affected by dementia requiring any additional support. Our role is to signpost and refer to other agencies for this support.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage
Equality and Diversity	Enabling residents to access specialist support, advice and information to enable improved health and wellbeing and promoting opportunities through multiple sectors and organisations.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage

7 Appendices

7.1 N/A

8 Background Papers

[Agenda item - Motion - Dementia Friendly](#) – 7 October 2020