

Report to: **Council**
Date: **19 December 2019**
Title: **Dementia Friendly Council**
Portfolio Area: **Wellbeing**

Wards Affected: **Which Wards/all**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: January 2020

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RECOMMENDATION

That South Hams District Council work towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Council.

Executive Summary

1. The Alzheimers Society published Devon's local profile in 2019 https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-07/ldp_devon.pdf which states that "...By 2025, there will be an estimated 16,829 people over the age of 65 living with dementia in Devon. However, dementia doesn't just affect older people. We estimate by 2025 there will also be approximately 1,600 people aged between 30 and 64 living with dementia in the South West."

Healthier lifestyles and advances in medicine mean that we are now living longer than before. In the South Hams, according to the Devon Strategic Needs Assessment in 2013 <https://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/jsna/overview/archive/population/population-structure/> we had a population structure where 25.7% of our residents were aged 65+, in comparison to the Devon figure of 23.9% and the English residents figure of 17.3%. The likelihood of developing dementia increases with age.

It is proposed that SHDC works towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Council, by embedding dementia friendly changes within all services to help make the lives of those affected by dementia a little bit easier. These changes need not have any direct cost implication if they are embedded as part of everyday business, however this would mean that some changes may only happen as part of a rolling work programme.

1. Background

Dementia will affect most people in our communities at some point during their lives. The Alzheimers Society use the strap line “small changes, big difference” which is one that SHDC can refer to when considering how it can improve the lives of it’s residents over future years. Being a Council working towards a dementia friendly outcomes would fit into all of the themes of which we base our core business.

What is a Dementia Friendly Council?

There is no certified accreditation from Alzheimer’s Society, most Councils who commit to this area use wording such as “...South Hams District Council is working towards becoming a dementia friendly council and supporting the local dementia friendly communities.”

What can SHDC do?

There are no strict guidelines aside from there must be a Dementia Friendly Forum, consisting of professionals and volunteers and a representative from Alzheimer’s Society. A Forum has already been established, which Louisa Daley co-ordinates and attend, currently chaired by Cllr Holway. The most recent meeting was held on 18th November 2019

It is recommended that our aspiration would be for South Hams District Council to incorporate dementia awareness and consideration of dementia into every area of core business for the Council. This could include but is not exhaustive to the following:

- Dementia Friends information sessions and SHWD Members, then staff becoming Dementia Friends – we can do this in house at little cost through Dementia Champions running one hour sessions
- Parking – introduce more parking spaces closer to pay and display machines to assist carers and also those with dementia. These could be delineated (cost implication) but would not be enforceable – similar to mother and baby spaces for example.
- Signage for SHDC owned buildings – using simple graphics, not just words. These can be downloaded from the Alzheimers Society website for free and incorporated into Facilities rolling works programme for toilets, reception areas, lifts and exits.
- Environmental Assessment of our buildings – this can be undertaken using the Alzheimers Society Dementia Friendly Environment

Checklist, for example, removing large dark rugs which can be seen as gaping holes by customers who struggle with perception due to dementia.

- New homes – encourage our developers to include dementia friendly accommodation within new schemes.
- Further raise awareness of dementia through staff courses and running it as one of the “Course of the month” options.
- Licensed taxi drivers – raise awareness with SHDC licensed taxi drivers through existing forums/training that new drivers already receive.
- Raise awareness and promotion of local groups and the National Dementia Action Week (May) through our Communications team and highlight any work that we undertake as a Council.
- Leisure centres – encourage and promote dementia friendly sport and activity sessions with SHDC Leisure contractors as part of a prevention strand to our work (as detailed in the aforementioned Devon Local Profile)

2. Outcomes/outputs

The work stream for this could commence in January, although without a dedicated officer for this project it would be an additional task for a member of staff.

An action plan will be developed, presented to a working group including Members and staff from different areas of business. It can be reported upon at Committee on a regular basis over the next six months.

The action plan will include outcomes related to each stream of the project, for example the number of Members and staff who become Dementia Friends.

An ongoing engagement with the Communications team can publish developments to the community as the project progresses.

3. Options available and consideration of risk

Through the South Hams Dementia Friendly Forum SHDC will gather ideas and feedback of the dementia related work streams from both those people who have dementia and their carers. In addition to this also the local dementia groups who also sit on the forum and represent communities around Totnes, Dartmouth, Kingsbridge and Ivybridge. This can be reported upon during the regular updates to Members. The potential impacts of this are positive impacts on the wellbeing of residents in South Hams.

SHDC has full support of this project from the Alzheimers Society. Louisa Daley meets with the regional lead for the Alzheimers Society on a quarterly basis through the attendance of the South Hams Dementia Friendly Forum.

4. Proposed Way Forward

The proposed way forward is for SHDC to recommend that it begins to work towards being a Dementia Friendly Council

A working group will be created and an action plan will be developed after the proposals are discussed with the business leads in each area.

There are no negative impacts related to this proposal.

6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance		<p>There are no legal implications related to this proposal.</p> <p>Any changes or improvements will be made in line with guidance from the Alzheimers Society and in close consultation with the relevant Lead Specialist in the relevant area.</p> <p>The proposal is not a statutory duty.</p> <p>The proposal sits within the Wellbeing priority, and aligns closely with Communities, Homes and enhances our safeguarding offer.</p>
Financial implications to include reference to value for money		<p>The proposal enhances any existing offer or services that we currently provide. There are no direct requests for additional finance to support this proposal.</p>
Risk		<p>If Members do not support this work then the Council will not be able to become a Dementia Friendly Council and vulnerable customers may be adversely impacted upon.</p>
Supporting Corporate Strategy		<p>Wellbeing, Homes, Communities and Council themes are all positively enhanced for South Hams residents with the proposal.</p>

Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact		There is no direct impact on SHDC Climate Change programme.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		The proposal has a positive impact on SHDC equality and diversity implications through assisting those vulnerable people in our communities.
Safeguarding		Current safeguarding procedures will be enhanced.
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		There are no direct links with crime and disorder although helping some people to become less vulnerable will build their resilience and therefore ensure that they are less likely to become a victim of crime.
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		The proposal has potential huge positive impacts on health and wellbeing of people in SHDC community.
Other implications		None.

Supporting Information

Appendices:

Links have been included within the report.

Background Papers:

Devon Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
Alzheimers Society Devon Profile 2019