

Dementia Strategy Update Report For Health Scrutiny Committee Meeting January 26th 2021

Purpose of this report

This report provides a brief overview and update of our Dementia Strategy work.

Introduction

In November 2018 the Quality Assurance Committee approved the 2019/22 Delivering Excellence in Dementia Care Strategy. This strategy supports our vision to be outstanding in health outcomes and patient and staff experience and aims to respond to the national Dementia Strategy 'Living Well with Dementia' (2009) to:

- Raise awareness and understanding
- Early diagnosis and support
- Living well with Dementia

The strategy describes our priorities for developing Dementia services during 2019 – 2022 and describes our commitment to work with our patients, carers and local community and our staff to review, develop and monitor our Dementia care in the following priority work streams:

- Coming into hospital
- Ongoing care in hospital
- Leaving hospital
- End of life care
- People, training and culture

A Dementia Steering Group, chaired by the Trust's Lead for Dementia supported by five work-stream leads and representatives from Divisions and Departments meets monthly to guide, monitor and implement the strategy. Patient /Carer involvement is via variety of sources and groups including Alzheimer's Society, Dementia Action Alliance, internal and external patient and carer groups.

Current Situation

We are currently in the process of implementing Year 2 of our Dementia Strategy. Due to staff and resources being diverted to respond to COVID-19 have resulted in the suspension of some of the Dementia Strategy work. However significant progress has still been made in many areas in particular:

- Achievement of 70% compliance mandatory training target in October.
- Completion of Kings Fund Environmental Dementia Audit in ward areas in May/June enabling us to identify the following priority environmental issues for action in Q3/Q4 calendars and clocks, signage within wards and around the Trust, handrails, artwork/points of interest, labelling hot and cold taps
- Preparation for the development of the electronic Dementia assessment in Nerve Centre with Digital Services anticipating to commence work on this in January 2021 and develop it ready for go live by the end of March 2021.
- Examples of areas we have not made as much progress are research and system wide changes around information sharing.
- The many examples of kind, compassionate care demonstrated by our staff and local community has helped us to support and care for patients with Dementia and their carers during the pandemic and demonstrated a commitment to supporting and further

developing excellence in Dementia care. For example therapy staff supported by a Wellspring's Musician (funded by Arts Council COVID-19) provided one to one cognitive therapy and a range of music for patients.

- In line with national visiting restrictions in response to COVID-19 patients have not always had access to their carers during this period. However significant efforts were put in place to minimise distress and promote communication virtually and a range of resources rapidly developed and promoted directly to patients and carers and also made available on our website. Current guidance does now enable patients to have access to their carers and support is given to ensure this can be done in accordance with our infection control and safety policies and guidance.
- We have reviewed our year 2 strategy milestones and work plan in light of COVID-19 and at the moment we continue to work towards the actions below .Incorporating these actions in to our recovery and restoration plans as appropriate will support achievement of our year 2 Dementia Strategy Milestones.
 - Development and implementation of an electronic dementia and delirium screening tool
 - Promoting carer involvement and support
 - Information sharing between primary and secondary care
 - Further Development of dementia friendly environments
 - Improving information and processes around discharge
 - Promoting and training staff in the use of RESPECT forms
 - Staff and Volunteer training.
- We remain active members of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System Dementia Steering Group.
- There is a need to continually review and adapt as appropriate our Dementia Strategy work in response to COVID-19, local community and system wide requirements.

Conclusion

Although progress has been limited due to the effects of COVID -19 there has been some good progress towards achievement of the Dementia Strategy year 2 milestones. Staff training has increased and awareness has been raised internally about the need to increase and improve our care and facilities to best meet the needs of patients with Dementia and their carers. Strong links have been made within the local community and NUH has remained an active partner in the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System. There is a need to continually review and adapt our Dementia Strategy work as appropriate in response to COVID-19, local community and system wide requirements.

Recommendation

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to receive, note and comment on our Dementia Strategy work undertaken and planned across the Trust in support of delivering patient centred Dementia care.

<https://www.nuh.nhs.uk/nuh-dementia-strategy>