

## **Dementia Strategy Update Report For Health Scrutiny Committee Meeting September 2022**

### **Purpose of this report**

This report provides a brief overview and update of the Dementia Strategy work at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust.

### **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. Diverting staff and resources to respond to COVID-19 has resulted in the suspension of some of our work on the Dementia Strategy. However, significant progress has still been made in many areas in particular:

- Development of staff skills through creation and delivery of a range of new training and successful achievement of 85% compliance mandatory Tier 1 training target;
- Integration of dementia friendly principles in to our estates projects and work e.g. colours of paint, design layout, signage, purchase of clocks, location and signage of toilets;
- Implementation of the electronic assessment for screening of Dementia and Delirium;
- Began a pilot for direct referral by staff to the Memory Clinic to help address waiting times. The pilot has recently been extended and is now to include City localities as well. An evaluation is taking place to see its impact but we are hopeful that it will be approved. An electronic referral pathway is also ready to be implemented and awaiting a training package to be finalised;
- Further developed advanced care planning work through staff training;

- Development of activity and monitoring reports for review and action at monthly Dementia Steering Group Meetings. New sections are being added to the dashboard as we develop and look towards the compliance with NICE dementia standards;
- In partnership with Nottingham Hospitals Charity we have introduced an Arts Co-ordinator post to develop an arts provision focussing on dementia care and staff well-being. The Arts Co-ordinator is responsible for the development, implementation and evaluation of an arts provision and associated initiatives to improve the health care environment and experience primarily for patients who have dementia, their carers and staff through the use of all forms of visual and participatory arts within our sites;
- Purchase of ten Reminiscence Interactive Therapy Activities (RITA) technology devices aimed at augmenting the care delivered to older people and those living with Dementia, as a means of supporting them, reducing their agitation, isolation, depression and delirium, enhance quality of life and wellbeing and promote engagement with staff, patients and carers. This initiative has received excellent feedback from patients and staff;
- Partnerships working with Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Alzheimer's Society who have supported us to further develop as a dementia friendly organisation by providing on line Dementia Friends Awareness Sessions for our staff and volunteers.

Examples of areas we have not made as much progress during Q1/Q2/Q3 are research and system wide changes around information sharing:

- Key area of focus has been around supporting patients with dementia and their carers throughout the pandemic. This has included the review and implementation of much national and local guidance. In particular around the need to ensure patients/ families are given appropriate information and support to visit/ stay in touch and staff in all areas have access to the necessary knowledge and expertise in how to deliver care to these patients and their carers. Examples of how this has been delivered has been through the development of a range of keeping in touch mechanisms and the recent creation of new posts in the Rapid Response Liaison Psychiatry Team to spend time with patients on the wards who may be suffering with Delirium/Dementia to formulate care plans and support ward staff on management;
- We have reviewed our year 2 and 3 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 Dementia Strategy Milestones:
  - Review and monitor use of pain assessment use
  - Increase arts/ music provision
  - Reduction of ward moves for patients
  - Further development of dementia friendly environments and processes in particular in the Emergency Department and Outpatients
  - Promoting carer involvement and support
  - Information sharing between primary and secondary care
  - Increase staff training
  - Staff and volunteer training
  - Identification of patients with dementia attending outpatient or day case units and making provisions to make it as safe as possible.
- 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 we have 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 are 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>

## **Dr Aamer Ali FRCP**

Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine, NUH in-patient falls and dementia lead, Joint R&I lead for Medicine Division, South Nottinghamshire ICP Clinical Lead, Regional Advisor to Royal College of Physicians, London.