

Nottinghamshire Health & Wellbeing Board Stakeholder Network – Dementia November 2015

Over 80 people came together on Tuesday 24 November 2015 to discuss dementia care in Nottinghamshire. The event was hosted by Councillor Muriel Weisz on behalf of the Nottinghamshire Health & Wellbeing Board. She welcomed members of the public as well as representatives from the County Council, District Councils, Health Services, Healthwatch, the Local Pharmaceutical Committee, Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service & a range of voluntary & private organisations with an interest in helping people with dementia & their carers.



The event started with an opportunity to meet colleagues & make contacts with other organisations & to visit stalls hosted by Nottingham Carers Hub, Optimum, Notts Help Yourself, the Alheimers Society, Mental Health Services for Older People, Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue, MINDTech & the Join Dementia Research Project.

Councillor Weisz then introduced the speakers for the evening who were:

- Gill Oliver, Senior Public Health Manager - The Challenge of Dementia
- Scott Smith, Alzheimer's Society & Mike Chappell, Compass Worker, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trusts - Supporting People with Dementia & Carers
- Professor Tom Dening, University of Nottingham - How Research Helps People with Dementia

Presentations are available from the [Nottinghamshire County Council's website](#).

The presentations were then followed by table discussions which focussed on 5 of the recommendations from the Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia 2020:

- Carers
- Meaningful care after diagnosis
- Raising awareness of how to prevent dementia
- Dementia Friends/Dementia Friendly Communities
- Primary Care/General Practice

Topics were supported by NHS England's [Well Pathway for Dementia](#) setting out 5 domains for improving dementia care. A number of common themes emerged from the table discussions, including many positive services & initiatives. Beeston Memory Café, the Compass Workers, support from the Fire & Rescue Service & dementia awareness training

across a range of organisations such as Broxtowe Borough Council, John Lewis & Tesco were all highlighted as examples of good ideas & good practice. Promoting these ideas across the County would help to extend the reach of these projects. Support through technology was also highlighted, although it could sometimes be difficult to find out what's available.

There was a general feeling that awareness of dementia is improving & that people are more open & willing to discuss the condition. Awareness raising in schools has been well received but more could be done to develop this & improve intergenerational support.

Support for carers was seen as key & more services to support self-care & self-help for carers as well the people they care for. Improving signposting to local services would also help, particularly through health & social care staff, as would more flexible services which could be available to suit different ages, needs or schedules. Integrated & joined up services were highlighted as a particular concern, with links through to wider partners like fire & rescue & the ambulance service who could help to support people in their own homes.

Understanding working age dementia was a theme common to a number of the discussions, particularly providing age appropriate support.

There were a number of comments about the health & social care workforce locally & it was suggested that dementia awareness training would help all frontline staff, as would access to specialist dementia training for hospital staff. Support & training for staff in care homes was also raised as an issue. People felt that encouraging large local employers to roll out Dementia Friends would help with this.

A number of comments were made about improving awareness across the county of the risk factors for dementia, particularly in improving the understanding of healthy lifestyles in lowering the risk of developing dementia as well as other conditions like cardiovascular disease.

All of the feedback from the discussions is being collated & will be used to inform a Nottinghamshire framework for action for dementia across health & social care.

Progress will be reported to the Health & Wellbeing Board during 2016.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the dementia event or feedback about dementia services please contact Gill Oliver, Senior Public Health Manager:

gill.oliver@nottscc.gov.uk



The next Stakeholder Network event - Working together to secure a tobacco-free generation - will be on 23 February 2016 at the John Fretwell Centre. More information on the [Stakeholder Network](#) web page shortly.