

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday 9 October 2017

Dementia in Wyre

Whilst Wyre Council does not have the duty to deliver social care services for residents, we do take a proactive role in supporting residents to remain living independently in their homes. This includes people who are living with dementia and their carers

Home Environment

Private Sector Housing

The Council delivers Disabled Facilities Grants, which provide adaptations in the home to create the facilities which are needed to meet the needs of residents who have a disability. The Council works with Occupational Therapists to ensure that adaptations are designed to meet the specific needs of the resident. Where appropriate, this will include the specific needs for people who are living with dementia.

Care & Repair

Wyre Council delivers the Care & Repair Home Improvement Agency service for Wyre and Fylde. This service provides help, advice and support with repairs, maintenance, improvements and adaptations to the home for householders who are aged 65 and over, or who have a disability.

Care & Repair provides a wide range of services, many of which are supporting people who are living with dementia.

These include:

A comprehensive service to identify maintenance issues with the property, provide advice on adaptations to assist with independent living and prevent admission to hospital or residential care, obtaining quotations from reputable contractors, making the necessary arrangements for work to be done, checking that works have been completed to a satisfactory standard and facilitating the payment for works when completed.

A handyman service which carries out small jobs in the home to prevent the risk of trips and falls and to keep people safe and secure in their homes.

Care & Repair can advise on measures which may be of help to people who are living with dementia and who may be having problems with their mobility, perception or their safety, providing peace of mind not only for themselves, but also for their carers.

Care & Repair works closely with other organisations such as the Alzheimer's Society, Age UK and the Carers service, to make sure that people are aware of the services which exist to support them and their particular needs. Caseworkers provide an information pack when

they visit residents to carry out an assessment of their needs and this pack includes information to support people who are living with dementia and their carers.

Care & Repair Caseworkers are experienced in assisting residents to claim Attendance Allowance, which provides additional weekly income to help meet the additional expense which can arise due to their having dementia.

Other Council services

The Housing Benefit team provides a visiting service for the elderly and vulnerable and whilst they don't specifically target people with dementia, they all will be eligible for this support

The Community Safety Partnership has supported a Dementia Buddy initiative. These are small devices which are worn by the person with dementia and, should that person become lost or disorientated when out in the community, a friend or family contact can be located from information held electronically in the device which can be accessed by the emergency services

The community safety team was involved in setting up and running the community garden at Cottam Hall, where residents from a local nursing home were taken to visit the gardens one day each week. This was volunteer led.

The Marine Hall holds a tea dance each week, which people with dementia are welcome to attend and they have also run an afternoon tea event

I am a Dementia Friends Champion, which equips me to deliver Dementia Friends Awareness sessions to groups and organisations and to create Dementia Friends. Sessions have been delivered in the Council to staff and elected members and I have also delivered sessions to community groups, GP practices and PPG groups, to raise awareness of what we can do to support people in our communities to live well with dementia

The Council has a page on 'Dementia Friendly Wyre' on its website

http://www.wyre.gov.uk/info/200463/health_and_wellbeing/1106/dementia_friendly_wyre

Community Activities

There are a number of events held across the Borough which are not run or organised by the Council, but which are often supported with attendance by Officers, in particular the Care & Repair service. These include Singing for the Brain, which is held in Thornton and a Fylde Coast Dementia Hub, providing information relating to dementia and the services which support people who are living with dementia, which takes place every month at either Clifton Hospital or Trinity Hospice. I am working to try to get this delivered in Fleetwood Memorial Park every third month, although the dates and venues have been published to the end of this year so if this were possible, it is likely to start next year,

although I have been advised by the organisers that public interest has been waning, so maybe we need to find a different method to provide information. All of these things are organised on a voluntary basis, in addition to people's own 'day jobs.'

At least two Care Home providers run social and reminiscence events on a not for profit basis in the community in Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde, on a regular basis and I have found that people from Wyre are willing to travel to attend these events when they are not taking place in Wyre. I am sure that there will be other events taking place, of which I am not currently aware.

Just Good Friends, which is a friendship and social group which started in St Annes, has recently started a group in Fleetwood and whilst this is not specifically for people with dementia, anyone is welcome to attend

Blackpool Council has facilitated two very successful 'Dancing with Dementia' events at Blackpool Tower and at the Winter Gardens over the past 3 years. I know that residents from Wyre have attended those events and I am working with Janet Heald from the Marine Hall to see if we can arrange a similar event in Wyre.

Wyre Council is a member of The Fylde and Wyre Dementia Action Alliance (DAA), which is a virtual group where organisations register to indicate their commitment to raising awareness of dementia and improving the lives of people with dementia.

As the lead for the Fylde and Wyre DAA, I am working with Blackpool DAA to develop a strategic group across the Fylde Coast to provide a mechanism for proactive engagement with the NHS, CCGs and Social Care. This is still in its early stages, but the two DAAs (as a Fylde Coast DAA) were fortunate, jointly, to have been selected as an 'Accelerator Site' by the Alzheimer's Society, one of 10 across the Country, which means that we are receiving support from the Alzheimer's Society for a year's duration, to progress the work to increase awareness of the Dementia Friends initiative working towards creating Dementia Friendly Communities, focussing on businesses, supermarkets in particular, and other, including hard to reach, groups (LGBT groups, youth groups, schools, faith and community groups) and increasing the network of Dementia Friends Champions.

Through the Fylde and Wyre DAA, I link with the MAC memory assessment centre in Bispham and the research department at Lancaster University. I am also attending DAA Leads meetings which include representatives from across the North West and provide an opportunity to network with other Local Authority representatives and DAA Leads

It would be very helpful if Elected Members could find out what other, if any, community based activities are taking place in their Wards which would be suitable for people with dementia and their carers to attend, so that the Council could promote this through their website and social media

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