

**Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board**  
**13 April 2022**

<b>Report Topic:</b>	Update on the delivery of the Sandwell Dementia Commissioning Strategy 2019 - 2025
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<b>Link to board priorities</b>	Please include in your report how your work links to one or more of our board priorities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. We will help keep people healthier for longer</b></li> <li><b>2. We will help keep people safe and support communities</b></li> <li><b>3. We will work together to join up services</b></li> <li><b>4. We will work closely with local people, partners and providers of services</b></li> </ol>
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on progress towards delivering the Sandwell Dementia Strategy 2019 – 2025.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	The Health and Wellbeing requested in September 2019 that six-monthly updates be provided on the progress towards delivering the Sandwell Dementia Strategy 2019 – 2025. The last update was provided in December 2021. Therefore, it is recommended that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Health and Wellbeing Board note this update.</li> </ul>
<b>Key Discussion points:</b>	Sandwell Council and the now Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) made a commitment in 2019 to improve support for local people living with the effects of dementia and their families

As part of this commitment a refreshed “Better Lives” strategy was coproduced and launched in November 2019. A comprehensive engagement report and implementation plan sits alongside it. Dedicated financial resources was made available through the Better Care Fund (BCF) to deliver the strategy.

The actions within the strategy have been categorised into four themes for ease of resource allocation;

- Training and awareness raising
- Improved information advice and sign-posting
- Pre and post diagnostic support
- Dementia Friendly Communities.

### **Training and awareness raising**

- A draft training strategy and skills matrix has been developed for Sandwell which is based on DOH health and social care skills matrix for 2019 (Appendix 1). As the other three categories in the strategy are coming to fruition, this will be finalized during 2022. This strategy will include training and awareness raising opportunities for local communities, schools, health and social care professionals and local businesses. This in turn will enable us to meet our first key priority of supporting people to stay healthier for longer. The training will be delivered through Sandwell Community Dementia Support Service.
- Training was provided during 2020 for Primary Care in the use of the DiADeM tool (Direct Mandate for GP’s to confidently diagnose care home residents with dementia) This has increased capacity within the system and makes best use of the available resources.
- The Training2care “Dementia Virtual Reality Bus” was commissioned in November 2021. This innovative approach gives people with a

healthy brain the opportunity to experience what it is like to live with the effects of dementia. 34 people attended the event, including key decision makers across the system, Primary Care leads and staff working in dementia services across Sandwell. It is hoped that further opportunities to participate will be made available during 2022/23

### **Improved Information Advice and Sign Posting**

- A dementia road map was developed for Sandwell in 2020<sup>1</sup> which provides living well advice and brings together all available support services within the six towns of Sandwell. This continues to be maintained by the Sandwell Community Dementia Support Service.
- A “My Future Care Handbook” is currently being produced and will be made available to all Sandwell residents living with the effects of dementia including carers during 2022. Both initiatives will contribute to our second key Board priority of **keeping people safe and supporting communities and services.**

### **Pre and Post Diagnostic Support**

- A Sandwell community dementia support service (pre and post diagnosis support) has been commissioned. The new service was fully operational from 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Currently the service is transferring to a new lead provider. This has resulted in some delays in progressing some of the service elements which include training, My Future Care Handbook and Dementia Friendly Communities.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-007827>

- Service data and qualitative outcomes will be available during the next six months and will be reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Integration of the service with primary care, secondary care and community services is progressing and will reduce the risk of people falling through the cracks in *The Living Well Pathway* (NHSE <sup>2</sup>). Sandwell's services have also been mapped against this pathway during 2020 and will be updated to reflect changes in 2022 (Appendix 2)
- Re-design of the Memory Support Service (MAS) continues. A hub and spoke model has been proposed to ensure the best use of available resources in support of meeting the 6-week referral, diagnosis and in- treatment standard.

Funding has been secured through the mental health recovery money 2021/2022 to deliver a screening project for undiagnosed patients in care homes from April 2022 until March 2023. Research shows that up to 40% of people living in a care home have undiagnosed dementia. <sup>3</sup>

This funding will ensure improved access to appropriate care and support for people living in care homes. The national ambition to achieve a 67% diagnostic rate has never been achieved in Sandwell and in February 2022 was 57%. This project will deliver significant improvements in Sandwell's diagnostic performance and will contribute to the improvement in the CCG's aggregate position. Each person receiving a diagnosis of dementia will be discussed by the clinician in fortnightly MDT's in primary care to support GP's to confidently continue to diagnose people once the project ends.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.england.nhs.uk/mental-health/dementia/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/about-us/news-and-media/facts-media>

### **Dementia Friendly Communities**

- The Sandwell Dementia Action Alliance (SDAA) was established in 2019 to deliver dementia friendly communities in Sandwell. Its ability to deliver was negatively impacted by COVID and legal requirements for the tendering process for the new community support service. The SDAA is in the process of being re-established and has the added support of the new community support service and a small amount of financial resource from the Council for publicity and for establishing the six dementia friendly towns.
- Support for each of the six towns in Sandwell to become dementia friendly is provided through each of the town-based dementia advisers within the Sandwell Dementia Community Support Service.

### **Implications (e.g. Financial, Statutory etc)**

**Resources** - The implementation of the strategy is funded through the Better Care Fund for a three-year period until 2023/24.

**Legal & Governance** - All regulatory and legal requirements have been adhered to.

**Risk** - Demand for the new Service may outstrip the capacity within the Service in the future. The Service has been designed to allow flexible use of resources to meet demand.

**Equality** - An equality impact assessment was completed. The new service is expected to have a positive impact on the local communities in Sandwell and the Lead Provider is required to ensure equal access to services for people and communities with protected characteristics.

**Health & Wellbeing** - The approach taken to improve services for people makes best use of existing relationships within Sandwell's communities which is impacting positively on the health and wellbeing of our communities.

**Social Value** - The new service is made up predominantly of locally- based third sector organisations and makes best use of existing community assets.

<p><b>What engagement has or will take place with people, partners and providers?</b></p>	<p>Extensive engagement supported the development of the strategy and a full engagement report sits alongside it.</p> <p>Due to the COVID-19 restrictions case studies have been used to develop plans and services to ensure that peoples experiences are at the center of service development in Sandwell.</p> <p>Task and finish groups aligned to delivering the integration agenda have been established with key stakeholders across the whole pathway.</p> <p>The Sandwell Community Dementia Support Service is required to demonstrate how feedback from those accessing the service has been used to shape service development. There is also a requirement that the service undertakes an annual questionnaire to seek peoples' level of satisfaction and the impact on peoples' lives</p>
<p><b>Appendices</b></p>	<p><b>Appendix 1</b> – Draft Dementia Training Standards Framework 2020-2023</p> <p><b>Appendix 2</b> – Dementia Services Pathways Flowchart</p>

