

**REPORT FOR: HEALTH AND SOCIAL
CARE SCRUTINY SUB-
COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting:	14 March 2018
Subject:	Dementia Friendly Housing Review
Responsible Officer:	Alex Dewsnap, Divisional Director, Strategic Commissioning
Scrutiny Lead Members:	Policy Lead - Councillor Michael Borio Performance Lead - Councillor Vina Mithani
Exempt:	No
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Dementia Friendly Housing – Report from the Review Group

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report presents the findings and recommendations of the Health and Social Care Sub-Committee Review Group's research into dementia friendly housing. This scrutiny review seeks to explore how those options can be applied to Harrow to benefit our residents who are affected by dementia.

The intelligence pulled together in this report comes from a variety of sources, including desk research, field visits, discussions with carers of people with dementia and a special roundtable on dementia friendly housing.

Recommendations:

The Sub-Committee is asked to:

1. Consider and endorse the report from health scrutiny members.
2. Forward the review's report and recommendations on to the relevant agencies, as identified in the recommendations, for consideration and response.
3. Agree to revisit the implementation of this report's recommendation in its work programme for 2018/2019

Section 2 – Report

Background

In September 2017, the Council's Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-committee carried out a review into dementia friendly housing in the borough.

The review topic was chosen due to projections in the number of older people in Harrow with dementia and existing national and local focus on the issue.

The purpose of this review was to:

- develop a greater understanding of what constitutes 'dementia friendly' housing;
- develop a greater understanding of and clarity around whether current housing provision within the borough meets the needs of residents aged 65 and over diagnosed with dementia, or those that could develop the condition in the future;
- identify measures that the Council could implement to help meet future housing needs. In doing so, identify what overall steps Harrow Council can take towards becoming more dementia friendly.

The aim of the work is to provide strategic support to the Council's Housing and Adult Social Care departments and Harrow CCG, to help plan for the long-term housing and care needs of those with diagnosed with dementia.

Report recommendations

The recommendations contained in the report are based on the evidence gathered throughout the Review, which comprised desk research, field visits to Extra Care and sheltered accommodation schemes and a special roundtable on dementia friendly housing. Members were provided with information from neighbouring local authorities, partner organisations, service users and expert witnesses and carefully considered this evidence in the forming of these recommendations.

In respect of the recommendations to the Council, the Sub-Committee is asked to note that there is insufficient time to refer them to the March meeting of Cabinet (which takes place on the very next day after the Sub-Committee meeting) and the April meeting of Cabinet has been cancelled. As there would be no substantive consideration of the scrutiny report until after the local elections in any event, it is intended that the report and recommendations be formally received by Cabinet on 31 May and that they then be substantively considered by Cabinet on 21 June.

Recommendation 1 (to Harrow Council)

Harrow Council undertakes a detailed and comprehensive needs analysis of demand for accommodation and support for older people in the borough and those diagnosed with dementia and other complex conditions.

Recommendation 2 (to Harrow Council)

The outcomes of the intermediate care and wellbeing scheme on an existing site in Pinner Road, Headstone South Ward (if successful) be considered as a

business case for developing a cost neutral solution for Extra Care housing within regeneration plans for Poets Corner (site of the Current Civic Centre).

Recommendation 3 (to Harrow Council)

Harrow Council produces an older people's housing strategy, which is incorporated within the Council's revised Housing Strategy.

The strategy should:

- a) take into account the provisions made for and funding available to develop specialist older people's housing to support older people diagnosed with dementia;
- b) take into account the policies and targets set within the Mayor's new Housing strategy and draft London Plan, with regard to the provision of specialist housing for older people with dementia;
- c) be integrated with health and adult social care priorities and provide a holistic approach to meeting the needs of older people with dementia as their condition progresses;
- d) take into account best practice examples and learning from other boroughs that have put in place strategies for supported accommodation and support for older people with dementia and other complex needs.

Recommendation 4 (to Harrow Council and Harrow Clinical Commissioning Group)

The borough's joint dementia strategy is refreshed to include:

- a) progress of outcomes from the previous strategy;
- b) integrated policies and action plans that meet the health, housing and social care needs of people with dementia in the borough;
- c) a care dementia care pathway to ensure improved post diagnosis care and support; better awareness and access to information and advice services via the council, the CCG and through local voluntary and community sector (VCS);
- d) details of plans for the development of a dementia information and advice hub for Harrow.

Recommendation 5 (to Harrow Council)

Council departments are encouraged to explore opportunities for increased partnership working with:

- a) Harrow CCG to ensure better integration of health and adult social care services, improved awareness of and signposting to other services in the borough and identify gaps in service provision;
- b) local VCS sector to raise awareness of dementia diagnosis and support services among BAME communities.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Performance Issues

There are no specific performance issues associated with this report.

Environmental Impact

There is no specific environmental impact associated with this report.

Risk Management Implications

There are none specific to this report.

Equalities Implications

Harrow has one of the highest older people populations in London. There are over 38,000 people aged 65 plus living in Harrow and this is set to rise in the next twelve years. During this period, the number of older people with dementia in Harrow is expected to increase by an estimated 37 per cent, from 2,500 to just under 4,000.

In addition, Harrow has an ethnically diverse older population. As Harrow's population ages, the proportion of people in older age groups who are from Black and Minority Ethnic Groups will increase.

These factors will provide unique challenges for Harrow, in terms of meeting the social care and housing needs of people with dementia. Therefore, equality implications will need to be considered, should the recommendations put forward by members be approved.

Council Priorities

- Protect the most vulnerable and support families
- Build a Better Harrow

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Statutory clearances not required.

Ward Councillors notified:	Not applicable – affects all wards
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Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Farah Ikram Policy Officer, 020 8420 5389

Background Papers:

- Dementia friendly housing – Report from the Review Group of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee