

Information Digest



To: Resources Overview & Scrutiny Panel
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Dementia Information Digest

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1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 Following on from the Dementia Care Working Group this report aims to update members on the outcomes.
- 1.2 More recently the Alzheimer's Society is adopting new approaches to Dementia Champions/Friends and Dementia Friendly Communities, which will be set out in this report.
- 1.3 To encourage safer and more inclusive environments for our communities by adopting the recommendations to support people living with Dementia and their care givers.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Council:

- Ensures that the customer services area at Moorlands House is accessible and welcoming for those living with Dementia.
- Encourage all Council staff to have a greater understanding of how to interact with people living with Dementia and how they can offer assistance to those that need additional support in an appropriate manner.
- Encourage staff to access sessions online via the Alzheimer's Society to familiarize themselves with how they can support someone living with Dementia particularly if they require Council Services.
- Continues to work with and support partners to influence positive outcomes around ensuring effective health provision particularly for the elderly and those living with Dementia any care givers that offer support.
- To support/promote the Alzheimer's Society particularly once they have reviewed their Community Based Services (Dementia Champions/Friends and Dementia Friendly Communities) and link with the appropriate Town/Parish Councils where applicable.

3. Executive Summary

- Following on from the Dementia Care Working Group this report aims to update members on the outcomes to date. It also intends to set out some next steps to encourage safer and more inclusive environment for our communities by adopting the recommendations.
- Dementia is an illness and Health Services play a fundamental role in delivering primary care for those living with the disease. As a Local Authority it should be recognised that we have limited resource to assist with primary

health care needs, however, we can seek to influence and create positive outcomes around effective health provision for the elderly and those living with Dementia.

- Encourage and recognise we all have a role to play in helping those living with Dementia to live a full and active life.

4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 To help create a safer and healthier environment for our communities to live and work. Working with and supporting our partners we will seek to influence positive outcomes around ensuring effective health provision particularly for the elderly.

Neil Rogers

Web Links and Background Papers

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk>
<https://www.dementiauk.org>
<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/dementia-professionals/external-training/alzheimers-society-learning-hub>

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5. Detail

- 5.1 The Council's website has been updated to signpost residents to local support services for dementia and to dementia advisors. The on-line forms to request various Council services have been reviewed and are dementia friendly.
- 5.2 Discussions have taken place with professionals regarding the front entrance to Moorlands House to make this more Dementia Friendly. It was concluded that a replacement green mat, which has now been fitted, meets the requirements and creates a contrast with the white tile floor. The entrance also needs to remain accessible to all people living with other disabilities and any flooring covering needs to meet Risk Assessment criteria to reduce trips and falls. The main entrance rubber mat was therefore deemed on a balance unlikely to cause an issue for those living with Dementia, due to the scale (size), the automated doors and other visual cues, which all create a welcoming entrance to the building.
- 5.3 Three Dementia Friends Awareness Sessions took place in November 2019 for district and parish councillors. A total of 27 people attended these sessions. Further sessions were arranged for 2020, but unfortunately, Covid pandemic stopped all face to face sessions taking place as per government guidance. At that time no online sessions were available.

- 5.4 More recently the Alzheimer's Society are encouraging people to become Dementia Friends/Organisations by taking advantage of the online sessions available rather than offering face to face sessions. This link provides more information around the Alzheimer's Society Learning hub - [Alzheimer's Society Learning Hub | Alzheimer's Society \(alzheimers.org.uk\)](https://www.alzheimers.org.uk) – which offers a number of online interactive learning courses around dementia. These include:
- *Understanding Dementia - For all employees who want to understand a little more about dementia.*
 - *On the phone - For employees who often take calls from the public, helping them with queries.*
 - *Getting around - For employees who work on public transport and help passengers get from A to B.*
 - *Paying for things - For employees who regularly take payment from customers, particularly in a retail environment.*
 - *Reading & writing - For employees who provide forms and accept forms from the public.*
 - *The bookcase analogy - Explaining dementia with the bookcase analogy*
- 5.5 The Council continues to work closely with colleagues from the Alzheimer's Society and to signpost any members of the public requiring support to the services offered by Alzheimer's Society or via local GP Practices.
- 5.6 The Council will continue to work with and support partners to influence positive outcomes around ensuring effective health provision particularly for the elderly and any care givers that need support.
- 5.7 The Council allocated £75,000 of DFG funding to purchase assisted technology equipment. It is anticipated that around 250 Moorlands residents with Dementia will benefit, plus their family/carers will benefit from this. This will form part of the initial assessment by the Support Worker from the Alzheimer's Society who will use their expertise and knowledge of AT equipment and the progression of Dementia to create a bespoke package of up to five aids, costing up to £300 per package, although this is not fixed and we would not hold back where an individual requires more aids due to their circumstances.
- 5.8 Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friendly Communities programme has played a vital role in uniting people, communities, organisations, and businesses to create a dementia-friendly society. Since its inception in 2012, the programme has grown up from the grassroots into hundreds of Communities working towards becoming dementia-friendly and building a society where people with dementia feel fully accepted, supported, and empowered to live the lives they want to lead. Informed by insight and evidence gathered before and during the pandemic, the Alzheimer's Society's are piloting some new approaches to their Dementia Friendly Communities programme and recognition scheme. They are testing a more consistent approach to how organisations are being acknowledged as taking dementia-friendly action and being part of their Dementia Friendly Community. Whilst they are piloting and reviewing the

programme, they are unable to start brand new groups on a journey that could shift and change so the scheme isn't open for new applications at the moment.

However, once a new approach is adopted the Council can support the delivery of the programme linking to local Town/Parish Councils where applicable.

- 5.9 Anyone now within Staffordshire Moorlands that is diagnosed or has symptoms of dementia is referred (or they can self-refer) to the Alzheimer's Society where they will be allocated a Dementia Adviser.

The Dementia Adviser will keep in regular touch with families and provide:

- Confidential advice and up-to-date information that can help people to understand more about dementia and what might happen in the future, and to make informed decisions about care, treatment and support.
- They can help people affected by dementia and their families find out about the services that are available in the community, they make referrals and generally 'open doors' to available support. This can include community activities, day care, occupational therapy, respite care, advice on nutrition or speech therapy, emotional support, financial benefits and much more. They are not clinically trained but work closely with GP surgeries in their area.
- They take as their starting point the fact that everyone will have differing needs and preferences.

Dementia Advisers will visit homes or meet privately at GP surgeries. They will discuss the client's needs and preferences and work with them to draw up a Support Plan. This will be reviewed every six months, although any clients or care givers can talk to their adviser at any point as the situation and needs may change.