

Warwickshire's Living Well with Dementia Strategy Refresh

Summary version

Living Well with Dementia
in Warwickshire 2016 - 2019



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1.1 Vision

The vision for Warwickshire's Living Well with Dementia Strategy refresh 2016 - 2019 is:

Warwickshire is a place where people can live well with dementia.

This means that people with dementia and their carers:

- Have access to a timely diagnosis of their condition and are offered appropriate post diagnosis support following this;
- Have access to high quality, personalised and integrated services across health and social care;
- Are provided with support that is tailored to their requirements and is delivered by skilled and knowledgeable staff;
- Have access to information and services that focus on early intervention, prevention and the importance of staying healthy at all ages;
- Experience less stigma and discrimination as awareness of dementia and the creation of 'Dementia-friendly' communities increases.

1.2 Defining Dementia

Dementia is a syndrome (a group of related symptoms) that is associated with an on-going decline of the brain and its abilities. These include:

- memory
- thinking
- language
- understanding
- judgement

Dementia is an umbrella term. It describes the symptoms that occur with various degenerative illnesses of the brain for which there are no cures, however drug therapies the progress may slow the progress of some dementias can be slowed down in some patients.

There are many different types of dementia although some are more common than others. Some of the more common types include; Alzheimer's disease, Vasular Dementia, dementia with Lewy Bodies, Frontotemporal dementia, Korsakoff's syndrome.

1.3 Dementia in Warwickshire

It is estimated that there are currently 7,615 people in Warwickshire¹ living with dementia, this will increase by approximately 34% to just over 11,000 in the next ten years. Of these, two thirds of people with dementia live in the community in their own home. A further 6,000 informal carers in Warwickshire identify themselves as caring for someone with dementia.

Although more prevalent in people over the age of 65, Dementia is not just a condition of old age. Early onset dementia account for around 2.2% of people with dementia, based on national estimates there are around 147 people with young onset dementia in Warwickshire

The national target for diagnosis rates for dementia is 66.7%, as identified in the table below there have been increase in levels of diagnosis and the full version of the strategy details how Warwickshire is on track to achieve the national target.

Table 1: West Midlands Estimated dementia diagnosis rates by CCG area

	Aug 14	March 15	% increase
Coventry & Rugby	50.6%	55.6%	9.8%
South Warwickshire	46.0%	53.4%	16%
Warwickshire North	48.8%	55.5%	13%

1.4 What is the dementia strategy refresh for Warwickshire?

Warwickshire's first dementia strategy 'Living well with dementia in Warwickshire' was published in 2011. Since the launch of this strategy, there has been significant progress in terms of highlighting dementia as a key issue at a local level.

Warwickshire Dementia Strategy refresh 2016 to 2019 is a plan of how we will continue to meet the needs of people with dementia and their carers in Warwickshire. It outlines the needs and priorities of people with dementia in Warwickshire within the current policy and legislative context. It is a collaborative strategy between Warwickshire County Council, Public Health, South Warwickshire CCG, Warwickshire North CCG, Coventry and Rugby CCG, Warwickshire service providers and people with Dementia and their carers

The strategy refresh details the extent to which priorities have been delivered since the launch of Warwickshire first dementia strategy and identified the things that still need to do and how people with dementia and their carers feel they can be supported to live well with dementia.

¹NHS England HSCIC 2015

1.5 What we plan to do

We will work with key stakeholders in health, social care and the independent and voluntary sectors and will work in partnership with people with dementia and their carers to deliver on the following strategic objectives;

1. Raising Awareness and Understanding of dementia and ways of reducing the risk of developing dementia;
2. Timely Diagnosis and Support;
3. Living Well with Dementia through the provision of a wide range of community support services including support to carers;
4. Living Well with Dementia in acute/residential/housing with care settings;
5. An informed and effective workforce across all services.

The following key principles will help guide delivery;

- People are provided with information and support to reduce their risk of developing dementia ;
- People diagnosed with dementia and their carers will be offered information about support in their local area at the point of diagnosis;
- People with dementia will be able to access multi-disciplinary teams and joined up services;
- Carers will know they are entitled to an assessment of their needs and will have access to the right support at the right time;
- Providers of services for people with dementia will ensure that all their employees are appropriately trained in dementia care according to their roles and responsibilities;
- The provider market, including the voluntary and third sector will be shaped to respond to the dementia challenge locally;
- The environment in which care is delivered in is, or is aspiring to be, 'dementia friendly';
- WCC Public Health, WWC Strategic Commissioning, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust (CWPT) will work together to achieve timely diagnosis rates for dementia, and improve availability of integrated post diagnosis support. In doing so we will also collaboratively work to make best use of available resources;
- GPs will be central to the diagnosis pathway by facilitating access to assessment services and by providing ongoing primary care support;
- WCC will monitor progress and achievements by undertaking co-production with people with dementia and their carers.

1.6 Who makes sure this happens?

A delivery plan accompanies this strategy which identifies the ways in which the strategic intentions and outcomes will be delivered upon. The success of this will be dependant on all key stakeholders working together and taking responsibility for the delivery of the dementia strategy. Warwickshire Dementia Strategy Delivery board will oversee delivery of the refreshed strategy.

The success of this Strategy will be also evaluated against the following outcomes/'I' statements, these have been defined by people with dementia and their carers during consultation:

1. I know where to get information and advice
2. I know how to reduce my risk of developing dementia
3. I receive a diagnosis in a timely manner and am provided with support tailored to my individual needs following this
4. I live in a community where I feel confident to access community resources and services free from stigma or discrimination
5. My individual needs and how I want to live my life are respected
6. I receive care and support from staff who are skilled and knowledgeable in supporting people with dementia
7. I am confident that I can get help when and if things suddenly change
8. As a carer, I am supported to balance my caring responsibilities with having a life of my own

1.7 How can I find out more?

To view the full version of this strategy and to keep up to date with the delivery of the strategy, including opportunities for how you can get involved please visit:

<http://www.livingwellwithdementia.org/>