

# Health and Wellbeing Board

## Report on the Adult Services Stakeholder Conference – Living Well with Dementia – March 2015

### 1 Summary

This report provides an update on the Adult Services Stakeholder Conference – Living Well with Dementia in Bromley held in March 2015 and the outcomes arising from it. The report also outlines how the second Living Well with Dementia in Bromley Conference, to be held in November 2015, will take forward any outstanding issues and also look at how delegates can help to make Bromley a dementia friendly community.

### 2 Adult Services Stakeholder Conference – Living Well with Dementia in Bromley – 11 March 2015

The aim of the Conference was to explore how the lives of those impacted by dementia could be improved so that people with dementia can continue to live independently in their own homes. The community, outside of the health and social care sector, has an important role to play in contributing to a dementia friendly community.

Prior to the Conference an engagement exercise was carried out with over 150 people through an online survey, face to face sessions and focus groups which gathered information on: positive and negative aspects of life with dementia in various areas of everyday living; accessibility of information, advice and guidance; the practicalities of living independently at home and support for carers.

The Conference was attended by 64 delegates including those from the health and social care sector as well as those from other businesses and organisations such as intu Bromley, Mytime Active, the Diocese of Rochester, JobCentre Plus, Bromley Police and other parts of Bromley Council.

During the Conference delegates built on the intelligence gathered previously and carried out the following tasks: mapping of existing dementia specific and generic services and activities; identification of gaps in support and activities including how they can be filled and commitments by delegates as individuals or for their organisation to improve the lives of people with dementia and their carers.

### 3 Outcomes of the Conference

The following outcomes were achieved at the Conference:

- 50 services and activities were mapped
- 7 areas highlighted as gaps or issues:
  - **Information, advice and guidance** – lack of a central information source about services and activities, assistive technology, benefits, Lasting Power of Attorney
  - **Geographical gaps** in areas of the borough as services and activities tend to be clustered and not always easily accessible to all
  - More **activities** that are affordable and open 7 days a week.
  - **Respite and support for carers** that is specific to people with dementia, can provide personal care if necessary and can be accessed at short notice.

- **Isolation** - people who live alone and are unknown until a crisis occurs or who spend one day at a day centre and otherwise remain at home
- **Acceptance and understanding** in the community
- **Inclusion of people from ethnic minorities** – currently there is a low take up in services
- 59 commitments by individuals or organisations to improve the lives of people with dementia

#### 4 Post Conference Outcomes

Since the Conference the following outcomes have been achieved directly as a result of the Conference:

- Creation and continuing development of the dementia section of Bromley MyLife to act as a central source of information for people with dementia, their carers and families and professionals. This includes the services and activities mapped at the Conference. Since it was launched during Dementia Awareness Week in May 1,800 unique individuals have visited the site viewing 3,000 pages.
- So far we are aware of over 10 Dementia Friends Awareness Sessions have been held training approximately 200 people. Others have also taken part in the on-line training. Those who have had the training are currently being contacted to understand the impact that this had had on them in their personal and professional lives.
- Information stand at intu Bromley to promote: services and activities provided in Bromley; the dementia section of Bromley MyLife and the launch of the Bromley Dementia Action Alliance.
- Promotion of dementia awareness and training in all pharmacies in the borough
- Increased awareness of dementia among Public Health's Health Champions
- Information relating to carers of people with dementia has fed into the Bromley Joint Carers Strategy currently being written.

As well as quantifiable outcomes of the Conference, the goodwill and enthusiasm generated among delegates has prompted them to continue to work together with other delegates. This has been manifest in several new organisations planning to join the Dementia Action Alliance and maintaining links between organisations to work more closely together or learn from existing groups as they establish new dementia focused activities.

Although it is not possible to attribute these directly to the Conference new services and activities have been commissioned or established in the borough such as: five new dementia cafes – two incorporating exercise sessions; a dementia unit at one of the older people day centres; Saturday opening of another day centre and work is being undertaken to promote the uptake of services among BME communities.

#### 5 Living Well with Dementia in Bromley – November 2015

Much has been achieved in consequence of the first Living Well with Dementia in Bromley Conference as well as progress through Better Care Funding raising the number of people in Bromley who have been diagnosed and the planned Post Diagnosis Support Services. However, there remain some outstanding issues raised at the first Conference which could be progressed further. Therefore a second Conference is being held in November to take issues such isolation and support for

carers forward through community groups and volunteers working with established services and groups where appropriate.

Additionally further engagement with people with dementia and their carers prior to the Conference aims to monitor how dementia friendly Bromley is at this stage compared to views given at the beginning of the year and establish a baseline for future engagement. By establishing these views in the eight areas highlighted by the BSI Group (formerly the British Standards Institution) delegates to the Conference will then be asked how they, as individuals or organisations, can help Bromley work towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Community.