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REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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DEMENTIA TASK GROUP - HOW FAR HAS MEDWAY GONE IN BECOMING A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY - PROGRESS REPORT

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Summary

In May 2017, following an extensive review, the Dementia Task Group review entitled 'How far Medway has gone in developing a Dementia Friendly Community?' was agreed by Cabinet. As a cross cutting review, the report had previously been presented to the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The recommendations made by the Task Group aimed to complement the wide variety of work already being undertaken by the Council and partners to implement the Council's Dementia Strategy. The review had a particular focus on how Medway Council and its partners could lead by example to help make Medway a Dementia Friendly Community. This included services that the Council directly controls and those, which while not directly under the control of the Council, it could influence through partnership working.

The attached progress report (Appendix 1) summarises progress against each recommendation. Many of the recommendations are cross cutting, within the remit of one or more overview and scrutiny committees. The report will already have been considered by the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 January 2018.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 Under Chapter 4 of the Constitution (Part 5 – Overview and Scrutiny Rules - paragraph 21.1 (xviii)), each overview and scrutiny committee has the responsibility to appoint time limited Task Groups to undertake in-depth reviews within the overall programme of reviews agreed each year by the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to make recommendations to the Council and Leader and Cabinet as appropriate. The review topic, ‘How far Medway has gone in developing a Dementia Friendly Community.’ is within the remit of each of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Membership of the Task Group was been comprised of Members drawn from each of these committees.
- 1.2 The recommendations arising from the review are consistent with the Council’s Policy Framework.

2. Background

- 2.1 In June 2011 the Business Support O&S Committee agreed to exercise a more pro-active role than previously in prioritising the programme of in-depth scrutiny review work. This followed a Council decision that a maximum of three reviews or themed meetings can be undertaken annually across all four Overview and Scrutiny Committees in light of shrinking capacity across the organisation – representing a shift from the previous position of multiple Task Groups with no fixed timelines running at any one time.
- 2.2 In line with best practice, the Committee also decided to adopt a more systematic approach to the selection of topics with nominations submitted by each Committee, taking into account suggestions and advice from Directors and Deputy/Assistant Directors.
- 2.3 In June 2015, the Business Support O&S Committee agreed a timetable and process for the selection of topics for the next round of in-depth scrutiny reviews. The topic of dementia was chosen for a review due to Medway having an ageing population, with the result that the prevalence of dementia is expected to increase. The topic was considered to be particularly suitable for review given the existing national and local focus on dementia, including publication of the Council’s Dementia Strategy.
- 2.4 It was agreed that the Dementia Task Group should commence its work following the completion of a Housing Task Group, with the first meeting of the former having taken place in September 2016.
- 2.5 The findings of the Task Group were first reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s for Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Regeneration, Culture and Environment, as well as to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 2.6 The report was presented to Cabinet in May 2017, with Cabinet having accepted all the recommendations.
- 2.7 The attached progress report (Appendix 1) provides an update on the progress made against the recommendations of the review thus far. The

update has also been presented to the Health and Adult Social Care O&S Committee on 18 January 2018.

3. Key Findings and Analysis

- 3.1 The recommendations of the Task Group were presented under the three main areas of focus of the Task Group – Leading by Example, Provision of Services and Post-diagnostic Support. The recommendations made in relation to Post-diagnostic support aimed to complement the Council's Dementia Strategy.
- 3.2 It was concluded that one of the most significant contributions that Medway Council could have towards making Medway a Dementia Friendly community was to 'lead by example' by ensuring that its staff and services were dementia friendly. It was anticipated that this would not only help to support people living with dementia, but would also help to give the Council greater influence in the encouragement of other local organisations and businesses to be dementia friendly.
- 3.3 The second area of focus was the provision of services. The main element of this was universal services that are available to everyone, whether living with dementia or not and how these could be adapted or customised to make them more dementia friendly.
- 3.4 The third area of focus was post-diagnostic support, including the ongoing work to implement the Council's Dementia Strategy and the proposals for a 'Test for Change' pilot in Rainham.
- 3.5 The recommendations recognised both constraints on financial resources and that implementation of the Dementia Strategy would already be facilitating improved dementia provision. It was still possible to put forward a set of recommendations that were considered likely to make a significant contribution to making Medway a Dementia Friendly community.
- 3.6 The key aim of the review was to consider how far Medway the place had gone in creating a Dementia Friendly community, in particular to identify which of the Alzheimer's Society Foundation criteria to enable Medway the place to be officially recognised as a Dementia Friendly Community (DFC) had been met and where further work would be required. It was anticipated that the Task Group evidence would eventually help to inform submission of an application for DFC status and for Medway the place to achieve this national recognition by 2020.
- 3.7 The submission for DFC status is coordinated by the Dementia Action Alliance of which Medway Council is a member. DFC status was achieved during Q1 of 2017/18; however it is a requirement of the standard for communities to continually improve.
- 3.8 The recommendations of the Task Group are set out in full in Appendix 1 and the progress made was used as evidence for the DFC status submission.

4. Risk management

- 4.1 The impact of the recommendations in this report are focused on helping to make Medway a dementia friendly community and, as such, no risks are identified to delivery.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this update report.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this update report.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the progress made against the Task Group recommendations and considers whether a further update should be reported to the Committee in the future.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Dementia Task Group – ‘How Far Has Medway Gone in Becoming a Dementia Friendly Community’ - Progress Report

Background papers:

None