

Slough Borough Council

Report To:	Slough Health and Well-being Board
Date:	Tuesday 17 June 2025
Subject:	Developments for Older People – integrated working across the NHS, Public Health & Social Care
Chief Officer:	David Coleman-Groom, Executive Director People (Adults)
Contact Officer:	Vanessa Pugh, Interim Commissioner for Older People
Ward(s):	ALL
Exempt:	NO
Appendices:	No appendices

1. Summary and Recommendations

1.1 This report sets out the overview of the dementia prevention work undertaken to date following the dementia needs assessment.

Please indicate which priority in the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy, [Slough Wellbeing Strategy 2020 – 2025](#), your report links to:

- Priority Two - Integration

This links to the ambition of increasing healthy life expectancy in Slough within the Health and Wellbeing action plan.

1.1a Map secondary prevention activity and impact across Slough to inform prevention opportunities across the system for physical and mental health.

Priority 1 – Starting Well	Priority 2 – Integration	Priority 3 – Strong, Health and Attractive Neighbourhoods	Priority 4 – Workplace Health
	X		

1.1 Consideration:

X Information

X Discussion

☐ Decision

☐ Endorsement

Recommendations:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

- (a) Note the positive integrated work across the health and social care system in respect of Older People including jointly led work between Public Health and Adult Social Care on Dementia and Social Isolation and Loneliness.
- (b) Consider opportunities to support delivery of the outstanding actions.

Reason: To ensure that Health and Well-Being Board is sighted on the positive developments taking place to deliver integrated outcomes for Older People in Slough and how this is contributing to the delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

2. Report

Introductory paragraph

2.1 The Slough Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) outlines that while 10% of Slough's population is currently aged 65 or over, this is estimated to grow to 16% by 2041. This population growth is likely to be accompanied by a range of long-term conditions such as dementia. Dementia is significantly underdiagnosed with 40% of cases thought to be unknown, although this is changing. It is therefore likely that we will see a marked increase in need.

2.2 The current Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy includes a focus on increasing life expectancy in Slough through identifying prevention opportunities across the system for both physical and mental health, which aligns with NHS priorities on Healthy aging. Healthy aging requires primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention to be embedded throughout the life course to increase healthy life expectancy, delay the onset of long-term conditions and ease pressure on social care. A partnership approach is key to this with joint working through the health and wellbeing board, between the local authority, health, and community partners. In addition, the integration priority of the JHWBS includes an ambition to increase the proportion of people living independently at home, through implementation of the recommendations from the dementia health needs assessment (HNA).

2.3 The Older People Commissioning Strategy 2023/26 was developed in partnership with Older People and the Co-Production Network and approved by SBC Cabinet in November 2023. The strategy includes the following 8 priorities, with dementia as a cross-cutting theme throughout:

Priority 1: To reduce social isolation and loneliness.

Priority 2: For Older People to have a continued sense of purpose to live their best life.

Priority 3: To live more years in good health.

Priority 4: To prevent Long Term Conditions.

Priority 5: To tailor Older People Information & Advice.

Priority 6: To support intergenerational families best care for their loved ones and with respect to cultural differences.

Priority 7: To have a choice about where I die through a co-produced end of life pathway.

Priority 8: To have a range of housing options to suit me in later life.

2.4 The Older People Steering Group was established to deliver the Strategy. It is co-chaired by the Commissioner for Older People and an expert by experience and meets quarterly. The membership of the Steering Group comprises Older People Co-Production Network volunteers along with partners from NHS Frimley ICB, Public Health, Providers, Carers and Volunteers. There is huge commitment from Older People in Slough to shape and improve their own futures, with a keen desire to be community led.

Background

2.5 Dementia prevention in Slough takes a partnership working approach with a combination of targeted initiatives and wider public health programmes that contribute to reducing dementia risk and improving early diagnosis and support. This includes work delivered through healthy lifestyle services, cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevention, and work focused on tackling social isolation and loneliness, all of which, support risk reduction. Alongside this, there are dementia-specific actions in place around raising awareness, early detection, and diagnosis, and supporting carers currently being delivered through the task and finish group. The sections below set out how this work is organised locally and outline some of the key elements currently being delivered.

2.6 The Dementia pillar underpins the entire Older People Strategy 2023/26. Public Health officers and the Commissioner for Older People collaboratively completed a Dementia Health Needs Assessment (HNA), in 2023.

2.7 A Dementia Task and Finish group was created to implement the recommendations of the HNA and ambitions in the Older People Strategy Action plan. This task and finish group includes key partners, with plans to broaden the membership to include health care professionals including primary care GPs, social prescribers, Memory Clinic, and secondary care consultants.

2.7.1 The deliverables achieved by the Dementia Task & Finish Group include:

- Early Awareness Dementia Leaflet/Factsheet for residents (See 4.2 in background papers). This leaflet is intended to help people recognise the early signs and symptoms of dementia in themselves or others, encouraging timely conversations and support-seeking. The leaflet was completed with joint sign-off from Public Health and Adult Services Directorate Leadership Teams in February 2025. The leaflet will be published online and distribution through local community networks.
- ‘Early Awareness Dementia Pack’ for local healthcare professionals. The aim of this pack is to raise awareness with Health Care professionals about dementia, including information on dementia prevention, local trends and lifestyle risk factors, evidence of effective interventions, primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention, local services and assets and proposed action to improve our local dementia care pathway. The final content and format are currently under review but will be agreed in consultation with the Dementia Task and Finish group and the intended audience of healthcare. Publication is expected later in 2025.

2.8 Social Isolation is a recognised risk factor for dementia. In view of this, a Social Isolation and Loneliness Task & Finish Group was established in October 2024 to rapidly undertake a Social Isolation and Loneliness Health Needs Assessment (HNA), including a heat map of loneliness in Slough identifying both isolated and less isolated areas across Slough.

2.8.1 This HNA includes insights from Slough CVS and Slough Social Prescribers to further develop our understanding of social isolation in Slough. The draft Social Isolation

and Loneliness HNA is currently going through the quality assurance process prior to final sign off. This will be shared with the Social Isolation and Loneliness Task and Finish Group prior to publication.

2.9 A number of other initiatives related to dementia and social isolation are currently in train to deliver the 8 key priorities. These include:

- An Older People Digital Task & Finish Group to focus on increasing awareness of technology to support independence in the home. It will also focus on digital safety, the shift from analogue to digital and seeking opportunities to work with young people to support knowledge transfer.
- The development of a series of short films describing the dementia journey by carers and people with dementia. These will be available on the Slough Borough Council website.

3. Implications of the Recommendation

3.1 Health and Well-being Board and Partners Implications

3.1.1 To ensure the Health and Well-Being Board has oversight of positive integrating work across health and social care for Older People in Slough.

3.2 Equality implications

3.2.1 The equality implications of Slough's Older People Strategy are critical in ensuring that the strategy promotes fair access, reduces health inequalities, and improves outcomes for all residents.

3.2.2 The Older People Strategy should have a positive impact in regard to protected characteristic of age and is tailored to supporting residents from different ethnicities and faiths. Many Older People self-care or care for a loved one.

3.2.3 It is intended that the Strategy will have a positive impact upon their lives by supporting individuals to manage their own health and wellbeing needs and to access the right support at the right time. This applies to Older People of any sexual orientation, including Older People who are married or in a civil partnership.

3.2.4 The Strategy sets out a particular commitment to understand how people in Slough can have more choice where they die in order that their preferences can be met.

3.3 Environmental implications

None

3.4 Financial implications

None

3.5 Legal implications

None

3.6 Risk management implications

3.6.1 If the dementia resources are not utilised, it could have the following risk implications.

- The people of Slough miss out on some valuable resources around dementia awareness (we have 40% of people with dementia undiagnosed) and a significant issue around a lack of knowledge and stigma which delays diagnosis.
- Reputational risk to both Adult Social Care as extensive consultation Impact with e.g. Co-Production Network, service users, carers, Frimley ICB, GP Networks, Social Prescribers
- Waste of extensive resources risk of the Older People Steering Group Impact on (including Co-Production resources), Public Health and Adults commissioning if the deliverables are parked.

3.7 Procurement implications

None

3.8 Workforce implications

None

3.9 Property implications

None

4. Background Papers

4.1 Dementia Health Needs Assessment



Dementia HNA final
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4.2 Early Awareness Dementia Leaflet/Factsheet

Dementia Awareness in Slough

(For over 65 year olds, their family members and carers)

Dementia describes an overall decline in memory and other cognitive skills severe enough to reduce a person's ability to perform everyday activities.

Types of dementia

Different types of dementia can affect people differently, and everyone experiences symptoms in their own way. People with young onset dementia may also experience unexplained changes in vision, hallucinations, or making repeated visits to the optician.

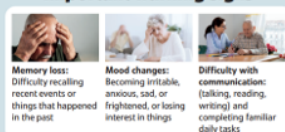


Dementia in numbers

944,000 people in the UK (2021) with dementia rising to 1.1 million by 2030. The cost of dementia is expected to double by 2050. There is a relatively low number of dementia cases in Slough (all ages vs over 65s) compared to the South East and England.

Lack of diagnosis: Around 40% of residents are expected to live with Dementia but have not received a formal diagnosis.

Important warning signs



Risk factors

Up to 40% of diagnosed cases are linked to lifestyle risk factors accumulated over time. Any lifestyle changes like quitting smoking, cutting alcohol and staying connected could prevent and slow the process of cognitive decline.

Dementia diagnosis process

If you're worried about any warning signs you or a loved one may be experiencing, you can follow the steps below that will help with a timely diagnosis:

- **Step 1:** GP consultation (history, signs and symptoms, physical examination, and cognitive tests).
- **Step 2:** Referral to a specialist (memory clinic).
- **Step 3:** Specialist assessment and pre-diagnostic counselling.
- **Step 4:** Diagnosis is made based on comprehensive evaluation (history, tests, scans).
- **Step 5:** Outcome - you have the right to be informed about the diagnosis and sources of support.



Memory Clinic (Slough Upton Hospital) offers a range of support services for people with memory problems, including:

- **Assessments:** They can assess cognitive ability and memory to help diagnose dementia as early as possible.
- **Treatment options:** They can discuss treatment options, such as medication, cognitive stimulation therapy, and post-diagnostic counselling.
- **Support for carers:** They can provide support and information for carers, including educational programs.
- **Strategies to help with memory difficulties:** They can provide strategies to help people minimise memory difficulties and live independently.



Where to get help and support



- **Older People's Mental Health Service**
www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk
0300 247 3001
- **Slough Memory Clinic**
www.nhs.uk/services
0300 247 3001
- **Slough Borough Council Adult Social Care**
www.slough.gov.uk/adult-social-care
01753 475 111
- **Age UK Berkshire Dementia Support and Services**
www.ageukberkshire.org.uk
0118 959 4242
- **Alzheimer's Society**
www.alzheimers.org.uk
Dementia Support Line - 0333 150 3456
- **Alzheimer's Dementia Support**
www.adsharity.com
No direct line. Email: terrie.hall@adsharity.com
0751 616 5647
- **Younger People with Dementia**
www.ygwd.info
0118 207 2880
- **Dementia UK (Admiral Nurse Dementia Support)**
info@dementiauk.org
0208 036 5400
help@ukdementia.org
0800 888 6678



Early and warning signs of dementia



Dementia risk factors



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