

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY



SCRUTINY PANEL 3 – DEMENTIA FRIENDLY TOWN

CORE QUESTIONS – EXPERT ADVISORS

The Scrutiny Panel is currently undertaking a review: Dementia Friendly Town that is investigating the town of Northampton can become a Dementia Friendly Town. The projected outcome is to make recommendations for Northampton becoming a Dementia Friendly Town

CORE QUESTIONS:

A series of key questions have been put together to inform the evidence base of the Scrutiny Panel:

1. Are you aware of what Dementia is, and its symptoms, please provide details?

Dementia is a result of damage to brain caused by stroke or disease. The severity and symptoms of this vary depending on the area of the brain affected. Symptoms can include memory loss and difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or language. Mood changes and behaviour can also be affected.

2. Are you aware of the effect on the health, wellbeing and the safety of people with dementia and their carers/families, if so, please provide details?

Dementia can be difficult for an individual to come to terms with and will be hugely frustrating as there is a gradual decline in their ability to retain independence. Denial and lack of engagement with services can increase this impact. Their ability to look after themselves and keep themselves safe will be impaired.

The combination of this and potential mood swings and aggressive behaviour will obviously be difficult for family and carers to deal with.

3. Please can you supply details of the current and potential partnership working regarding supporting people with dementia.

Our current involvement is through the Adult at Risk referral process whereby concerns are highlighted to appropriate professionals when identified by officers attending any incidents or missing episodes where dementia is a key factor.

Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Team, Mental Health Nurses embedded within Northamptonshire Police and Safeguarding leads within Health Services.

4. Are you aware of any specific groups that are not accessing services, please provide details.

Private home owners living in the community and not engaged with any services can be more isolated as any changes in health or deterioration are not so easily identified. It can often be a significant event that takes place before this pathway is opened for them.

5. In your opinion please provide information of the benefits of Northampton becoming a Dementia Friendly Town.

Some of the most vulnerable adults within our communities will be appropriately supported regardless of their personal circumstances.

Earlier intervention and support will reduce the burden to services of more significant incidents and ultimately provide a cost saving across the services.

6. Do you have any other information you are able to provide in relation to a Dementia Friendly Town?

Vulnerable persons and addresses can be flagged on the Police Force Control Room command system. This offers support to persons subject to dementia by highlighting their potential vulnerability to officers and staff who may come into contact with them.