

# 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 describes a set of symptoms that may include memory loss and difficulties with thinking, problem solving or language; it can also affect an individual's mood and behaviour. Many different types of dementia exist but the most common forms are Alzheimer's and Vascular. It is caused by damage to the brain. There are currently around 850,000 people in the UK with it and it mainly affects people over the age of 65 and the likelihood of developing dementia increases significantly with age. It can affect younger people too with 42,000 people in the UK under 65 with dementia

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?

Day to day memory

Concentration, planning and organising

Language difficulties – difficult to follow conversations, find the right words, express self

Visuospatial skills – problems judging distances (stairs, steps and floor surfaces)

Orientation – to time date and place

Mood – frustrated, irritable, anxious, low, withdrawn

Behaviours – agitated, restless, pacing, asking questions over and over

Physical health – weight loss, changes in diet and sleep

Difficulty under taking daily activities of living – shopping, cleaning, personal care

Difficulties assessing safety – driving

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

Northamptonshire Carer's – Dementia Care Advice Service (DCAS)

Alzheimer's Society

NHFT – Memory assessment service, Memory clinics

Age UK

CCG's

Northamptonshire County Council

University of Northampton

Tollers

First for Wellbeing

Nursing/residential care providers

Pharmacy's

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

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

Promote wellness and not illness (better physical and mental health)

Sense of community support and inclusion

Raise the awareness of dementia

Reduce stigma

“Flagship” county opportunities, improve recruitment of dementia experts in a wide variety of providers to come to Northampton

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