

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?
The Alzheimer's Society produces a wide range of information for a variety of audiences on dementia. Please see our website for details www.alzheimers.org.uk
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?
As above the Alzheimer's Society produces a range of literature to support People with a diagnosis, their families, cares and the general public. The Society also offers services to support those affected, as well as awareness raising , research and campaigning.
3. Please can you supply details of the current and potential partnership working regarding supporting people with dementia.

The Alzheimer's Society locally works closely with Northamptonshire Carers to deliver Statutory Carer's Assessments on behalf of NCC (a sub-contracting

arrangement). The AS is a member of the Carer's Partnership board chaired by Mark Major, CEO of Northants Carers.

As part of our work assessing need and providing support to individuals we work closely with a wide range of organisations in the statutory and voluntary sector.

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

The current AS Strategy to be implemented over the next 4 years aims to greatly increase the number of individuals receiving an offer of support. To achieve this it will be restructuring its offer to enable far broader reach. We will be working with local funders in the social care sector to identify how these aims can fit into local provision.

Current provision often fails to reach people early enough, and people often only become aware of support services at times of crisis. Earlier intervention aimed at preventing such crises is a key priority.

While this relates to people with a diagnosis as a whole, there are some groups whose needs could require specific focus, such as people with early onset dementia (under 65), and people with learning difficulties, who are often at increased risk of developing dementia. The needs of such groups can differ to those of the wider population and may need addressing separately.

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

The benefits of Northampton becoming Dementia Friendly are vast, it allows businesses and organisations in the town to be united against dementia, giving their staff extra knowledge about dementia and allowing them to become more diverse. Also as shopping parks such as Rushden Lakes open which are incredibly busy, this allows a gap in the market for Northampton to promote that people with dementia would be welcome in the town to shop, travel and use the services of the town.

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

One of the services we provide at Alzheimer's Society is looking at dementia friendly communities. Some of our key work in the East Midlands has been taking place in Derbyshire, with real successes of creating DFC in Amber Valley & Alfreton. It would be fantastic to replicate this vision in Northampton.