

Dementia Report – one year on.

Melton Borough Council (MBC) and the Alzheimer's Society (AS) have been working together since April 2013. A memory advisor from the AS has been an invaluable contact for MBC and individuals who have been diagnosed with dementia, the carer and the family.

Since the AS has joined the Senior Forum partnership, there has been regular information sharing and resources distributed amongst the group. MBC supported dementia awareness week in May 2013 by holding a successful Dementia Awareness Event. A number of partners were involved, Adult Social Care, Library, Age UK etc.



Throughout 2013 the AS delivered 5 Dementia Friends Information Session (DFIS) in Melton, to raise awareness of dementia in the community, change negative perceptions and reduce stigma. Over the 5 sessions 83 individuals attended these sessions (3 Police, 2 LCC staff, 5 residents and 73 MBC staff). Dementia Champions training was promoted to those that had been on the DFIS there is limited information on how many have gone on to become a Dementia Champion.

MBC, AS and other partners have been raising awareness of dementia and promoting the DFIS. Internally the DFIS were shared with T3 managers and the Melton BID, sadly business take up has been low in 2013.

Currently in Melton there is a lack of support for carers. A group where carers and the person they are caring for could attend closed at the beginning of 2014 due to lack of funding.

The AS and MBC recognised that there is limited support for carers in the Borough so applied for the NHS Innovation Challenge to hold 18 CRiSP (Carers Information Support Programme) over a course of 3 years with four CRiSP 1 sessions and two CRiSP 2 sessions per year. Unfortunately our application for funding was unsuccessful.

The AS was linked into the Brighter Futures Project, again changing the perception of how people view dementia and what the process is when getting a diagnosis and the support mechanisms. This was a beneficial exercise for many that attended the Brighter Future Project.

Moving forward in 2014, MBC drafted a report for the Communities and Social Affairs Committee recommending that Melton sign the National Dementia Declaration and develop an action plan. This was agreed and the NDD was signed and submitted to the National Dementia Alliance. This commitment meant that MBC could become a member of the Leicestershire Dementia Action Alliance and attend the quarterly meetings with partners supporting the dementia challenge ([click here](#)). Councillor Posnett was recommended and agreed to become the Dementia Champion.

The Alzheimer's Society had some funding available to run a CRiSP session in Melton, this went so well a reserved list with at least 12 more carers are waiting for another CRiSP sessions in Melton. A report is available in the supporting document list.

MBC and the Alzheimer's Society held 4 DFIS session the week before Dementia Week (with 21 new Dementia Friends), promoted the Dementia event during dementia week and then held Dementia event Friday 4th June. The event was well attended by partners however there were low numbers of the public attending. Those that did attend seemed to get a lot out of it with being able to have in-depth

conversations with each partner in the room. We had a business attend which was great and who are interested in becoming a Keep Safe Place as well as having all their staff to attend a DFIS. The DFIS has been offered to Parish Councils, Faith Groups and Schools. Bottesford Parish Council and Good Neighbour Scheme are interested in an information session.

Working with the town centre managers in order to approach businesses about dementia in a different way this has been complimented with a video that the Alzheimer's Society have developed to support businesses with a large number of employees, (leaflet available in the supporting documents section).

Research in increasing our status as a supporter of Dementia Friends has led us to look into the guidance and process of becoming a dementia friendly borough.

Ways to support the carer and individuals living with dementia have been explored with a focus on other initiatives and projects in other districts and cities; an example is the Soundtrack to my life. In Melton we do have a carers group; a group that was closed due to lack of funding which was for the carer and the individual being cared for will be starting again Wednesday 18th June and is run by Age UK. However there is still the need for more support to be made available for the carers and the person living with dementia.

Recommendations to take forward 2014/2015:

- Continue to promote the take up of DFIS across the Borough
- Town Centre managers and Economic Development Officer promote the business leaflet through newsletters.
- Attend business networking meetings to promote the dementia friends sessions.
- Increase the capacity for carers, through reviewing the recent CRISP session and look at whether any support can be offered to hold more sessions in Melton.
- Attend the Leicestershire Dementia Action Alliance (LDAA) meeting and be a positive and proactive member.
- Suggest Soundtrack to My Life but taken to a future LDAA meeting and Commissioners of adult social care and other influential individuals supporting the dementia challenge attend.
- Apply for the Dementia Friendly Borough status.

Supporting documents

[National Dementia Declaration](#)

[NDD, action plan](#)

[CRISP report](#)

[Business leaflet](#)

[Soundtrack to my life](#)

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