

Subject: **Select Committee on Dementia: Report for Information**

Date of Meeting: **29 September 2010**

Report of: **The Acting Director of Strategy and Governance**

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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 In 2009 the Overview & Scrutiny Commission (OSC) established a Select Committee to examine local dementia services. The immediate contexts for this were the recent publication of a National Dementia Strategy and the ongoing re-design of the local Dementia Care Pathway.

1.2 Select Committee members were: Cllr Pat Hawkes (Chair), Cllr Dawn Barnett, Cllr Averil Older, Cllr Georgia Wrighton and Mr Robert Brown (representative of the Brighton & Hove Local Involvement Network).

1.3 The dementia report was presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Commission on 07 September 2010. Since the report has a direct bearing on issues relating to both health and social care, it was decided that it should be reported for information to HOSC and ASCHOSC. The Select Committee report on dementia is included as **Appendix 1** to this report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That members note the Select Committee report on dementia.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Dementia is the term used to describe the effects of a group of conditions which progressively affect people's memory, thinking, orientation, comprehension, calculation, learning capacity, language and judgement. The best known and most common cause of dementia is Alzheimer's disease, but there are several other types of dementia which affect significant numbers of people.
- 3.2 Dementia is most prevalent amongst older people, and, as the average age of the UK population increases in the next few years, so the morbidity of dementia is expected to grow. This has major implications for people with dementia and for health and social care systems.
- 3.3 Whilst there is a good deal of ongoing activity aimed at treating/curing dementia, including some very exciting work in Sussex, the main focus of the National Dementia Strategy is on improving assessment, care and support services. In consequence, the Select Committee chose to focus on these areas also.
- 3.5 More detailed information on dementia and the Select Committee investigation may be found in the Select Committee report (**Appendix 1**).

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 A draft version of the Select Committee report was shared with senior clinicians from Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals Trust and with the city Commissioner for Long Term Conditions and Independence, and their comments were taken into consideration when compiling the final report.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are none directly for the HOSC

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 None to this report for information

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Information on equalities issues is contained in the main report (**Appendix 1**)

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 None directly

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 None directly

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 Detailed information on the risks posed by dementia is included in the main report (**Appendix 1**)

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 Ensuring that people with dementia, their families and their carers live lives of quality and dignity is a key challenge for city health and social care partners.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Select Committee report on Dementia

Documents in Members' Rooms:

None

Background Documents:

1. National Dementia Strategy

