

Meeting: Cabinet
Date: 4 March 2024
Classification: Part 1
Key Decision: Yes
Title of Report: **Addendum to Item 8 ‘Dementia Support Service – Consultation’ following pre-cabinet scrutiny**

Executive Director: Mark Harvey, Executive Director (Adults & Communities)
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Executive Councillor: Councillor Daniel Nelson, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report has been produced to set out the suggested amendments proposed by the People Scrutiny Committee held on 27 February 2024.
- 1.2 This report is an addendum to item 8 ‘Dementia Support Service – Consultation’ of the published Cabinet agenda pack of 4 March 2024 to provide further clarity following pre-cabinet scrutiny undertaken by the People Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 27 February 2024.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Confirm the closure of the DCSS in its current format and restructure adult social care services to include a prevention and enablement service to ensure that continuous appropriate and accessible information and advice is available.
- 2.2 In response to the public consultation and views expressed, to develop four new full-time equivalent posts (dementia community navigators) and one part-time community builder as part of the new prevention and enablement service in Adult Social Care.
- 2.3 Agree to develop 4 locality-based support groups for people with dementia and their informal carers. This would make accessing a club local to them easier for residents across the city.
- 2.4 Enable additional investment to relevant carer organisations to be able to attend the proposed locality groups more regularly to support carers.

- 2.5 That the new community navigator roles, locality groups and additional support for carers be funded via the investment of £100,000 from the additional social care grant recently announced by Government.

3. Background

- 3.1 The People Scrutiny Committee at the meeting held on 27 February considered the results of the public consultation and provided comments and feedback on the presented options by way of pre-cabinet scrutiny.
- 3.2 Southend Southend-on-Sea City Council is proposing to end the Dementia Community Support Service (DCSS) by the end of March 2024. This service is currently provided by the Dementia Community Support Team (DCST), employed, and managed by Southend City Council. The team comprises 14 posts (11.95 FTE) and offers information, practical advice, and support to individuals living with dementia in Southend, Castle Point, Rochford, and Rayleigh. Members of the service also support 3 regular clubs that offer respite and social interaction to informal carers while offering activities for the residents they care for. It is proposed to end the service. The closure of the service is projected to provide an annual saving of £250,600.
- 3.3 Given the potential impact on residents a public consultation was undertaken. The consultation ran from 19 September 2023 to 2 February 2024.
- 3.4 The results of the public consultation were considered by the People Scrutiny Committee at the meeting held on 27 February 2024 where the options were discussed in detail and an amendment put forward as summarised in section 4 below.

4. Amendments – from People Scrutiny Committee held on 27 February 2024

- 3.5 The People Scrutiny Committee expressed a number of concerns but ultimately supported the recommended 'Option 1' subject to the amendment of paragraph 5.2 within the original report published as part of the People Scrutiny agenda pack on 14 February 2024, which was subsequently adjourned to 27 February 2024.
- 3.6 The amendment was to increase the proposed number of dementia care navigator posts from two to four full-time equivalent posts and the inclusion of one part-time community builder as part of the new prevention and enablement service in Adult Social Care.
- 3.7 The amendment was proposed by Councillor C Nevin, seconded by Councillor D Richardson and agreed unanimously.
- 3.8 For clarity the recommended 'Option 1' has been updated and forms the proposed recommendations to Cabinet as set out in section 2 of this addendum.

3.8 A typographical error was noted that the report incorrectly refers to Castle Point as 'Castlepoint' and that this should be updated in future.

