

**OFFICER DELEGATION SCHEME
RECORD OF OPERATIONAL DECISION**



TO BE UPLOADED TO THE E-MEETINGS MANAGER

Date: 29/05/2020	Ref No: 2046	
Type of Operational Decision:		
Executive Decision <input type="text" value="Yes"/>	Council Decision <input type="text"/>	
Status: For Information and Publication		
Title/Subject matter: To present the findings of the evaluation of the Dementia Community Support Services (non- statutory funded) in Bury.		
Budget/Strategy/Policy/Compliance – Is the decision:		
(i) within an Approved Budget	Yes	
(ii) not in conflict with Council Policy	Yes	
(iii) not raising new issues of Policy	Yes	
Equality Analysis [Does this decision change or make policy; change or make procedure or working practice? An Equality Analysis must be completed to assess the impact on equality and the relevance of the Public Sector Equality Duty. This should be signed off by your departmental equality representative and accompany this decision form. Please forward a copy to the Equality email for publication].	Not Applicable	
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Signed: (By EA Officer)</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Date:</td> </tr> </table>	Signed: (By EA Officer)
Signed: (By EA Officer)	Date:	

Details of Operational Decision Taken [with reasons]:

Following a decision by Interim Executive Director, Communities and Wellbeing on 21st August 2019 to commission the evaluation of dementia community support services. An open request to quote was conducted on the North West Procurement Portal (The Chest) under Public Contract Regulations to which bids were received on 11th September 2019.

The tender proposals were evaluated on the 12th September 2019 by a panel of 2 nominated officers using MEAT criteria based on the lowest price together with the highest quality in relation to the service specification.

In October 2019, Bury Council commissioned Social Research Partners to undertake an evaluation of the non-commissioned community support services for people living with dementia and their carers in Bury

There are a number of community groups and organisations that support people living with dementia and their families and carers in Bury. The Council has supported a number of voluntary, community and faith groups and committed individuals to develop, set up and sustain community activities.

However, as these are not commissioned by the Council or the Clinical Commissioning Group, their contribution to the local community has never been fully assessed.

The evaluation examined the overall impact of these services on people living with dementia, their carers and families; the value of these services to the local community; how well the services respond to community needs and if gaps in service provision exist; and provided evidence of good practice that new and existing services can consider when planning future provision.

Data for the evaluation was collected through interviews with key contacts of the groups; interviews with members attending the groups including people living with dementia, carers, volunteers and others; interviews with local businesses; observation visits to the groups and a survey with group members.

Key findings

The services evaluated for this study successfully address the need for activities and support for both carers and people with dementia to combat the negative impacts of isolation and loneliness. The current activities provision in Bury is of very high quality, and very much needed and appreciated by attendees and the community.

Key factors contributing to the success of the groups include:

Dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers and group leads

Having activities at accessible venues and

Relying on delivery formats that are participant influenced and offer a range of activities for all attendees.

Impact on people living with dementia, their carers and families

The overall impact of these services on people living with dementia, their carers and their families has been very positive. Attendees reported to have felt less lonely and socially isolated as a result of their attendance, as well as more uplifted which translated into better quality of life. For people with dementia groups also offered an important stigma free environment to maintain pre dementia identity.

For family carers the groups acted as an important support function offering peer support, information, advice and signposting pathways.

Benefits to local community and volunteers

The benefits to local community were also very positive – volunteers of the groups enjoyed giving back to the community and making new social contacts which has enhanced personal wellbeing. Many volunteers were also retired and these opportunities acted as an important barrier against social isolation and mental health conditions.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this evaluation the following areas need reflection when considering the sustainability of current and future service provision.

Strengthening service provision across Bury by setting up a formal Dementia Network

Many of the groups expressed a need for a well-run Dementia Network with realistic goals that provides opportunities for shaping the dementia landscape in Bury, and a level of co-ordination for existing services.

The network would help to develop a more comprehensive picture of what activities are happening across Bury, building on this evaluation.

Developing links between groups and building partnerships would help both new emerging groups and existing ones to guarantee sustainability of activities provisions.

Awareness and signposting issues could also be tackled with a joint effort to ensure people living with dementia, carers and family members are aware of activities.

Provision of support for volunteer run groups and organisations working with volunteers. Volunteering is an area where the groups would benefit from further support.

The dementia friendly community groups in Bury depend on volunteers in different ways: some are run by volunteers and others depend on volunteers to help with the smooth running of activities. Several interviewees described that Bury has a good number of people interested in volunteering and wanting to get involved in these services.

Support needs of the groups include :

Help with funding

Access funding to run activities and hire staff to better co-ordinate the Activities

Support and guidance for completing funding applications

Strategic development and help with long-term planning

Finding right volunteers to support necessary tasks

Retaining volunteers / trustees to ensure long-term sustainability

Communication and promotion of groups and activities to attract volunteers and donors, fundraisers, as well as to recruit members.

Next Steps


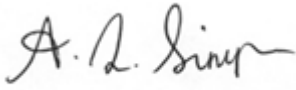
Requested to approve the report for publication and to start to assess the recommendations for action.



Appendix A-
FINAL.pdf



Evaluation of
dementia friendly se

Decision taken by:	Signature:	Date:
Interim Executive Director		1.6.2020
Members Consulted [see note 1 below]		
Cabinet Member/Chair		
Lead Member		1.6.2020
Opposition Spokesperson		

Notes

1. It is not generally a requirement to consult with any Members on Operational Decisions but where an Executive Director considers it necessary to consult with the appropriate Cabinet Member and/or Lead Member, they must sign the form so as to confirm that they have been consulted and that they agree with the proposed action. The signature of the Opposition Spokesperson should be obtained to confirm that he/she has been consulted.
2. **This form must not be used for urgent decisions.**