

# Coventry and Warwickshire's Living Well with Dementia Strategy 2022-2027

## Engagement Report Summary

### BACKGROUND

To support the development of the Coventry and Warwickshire's Living Well with Dementia Strategy 2022-2027, a period of engagement on the draft strategy was offered between 21st September and 31st October 2021. The engagement sought feedback on a draft version of the strategy and to get respondent views on the proposed six priority areas:

- Priority One: Preventing Well (reducing risk of developing dementia)
- Priority Two: Diagnosing Well (diagnosis of dementia and support straight after a diagnosis),
- Priority Three: Supporting Well (ongoing support for people with dementia and their carers),
- Priority Four: Living Well (living well with dementia in dementia friendly communities),
- Priority Five: Dying Well (allowing people to die with dignity and respect)
- Priority Six: Training Well (training and awareness opportunities for carers and those working with people with dementia).

Responses to the engagement were invited from a range of partners, stakeholders and people across Warwickshire and Coventry. There was a particular focus on seeking the views of people with dementia and their carers.

The strategy will be supported by a delivery plan which will set out exactly what will happen over the next five years.

### METHODOLOGY

A range of methods were used to gather views. These included:

- An online survey on the Ask Warwickshire webpage. An easy-read version of the main survey was also available.
- A paper-based version of the standard online survey could be requested by telephone or email. Alternative formats and languages could also be requested.
- Comments in relation to the draft strategy could be sent directly to Commissioners (via phone, post or email).
- In person engagement: People with dementia and/or their carers could request 1-to-1 sessions (available virtually, by telephone or face-to-face). A series of virtual listening events / Visits to Dementia cafes and support groups and other small group sessions were offered to encourage and support people to take part.

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FROM THE ASK WARWICKSHIRE SURVEY** (a report of the in-person engagement is also available)

- In total, 85 responses were received to Coventry and Warwickshire's Living Well with Dementia Strategy survey – 62 to the main survey and 23 to the easy-read version. Combined results are presented from both the main and easy read surveys.
- 81.2% (n=69) of all respondents agreed (either agreed or strongly agreed) with the vision set out for the strategy (that 'everyone affected by dementia is enabled to live well'). In terms of comments, several

responses expressed that further clarity is required on how this vision will be realistically and practically implemented.

- Respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with each of the six strategic priorities:

**Priority One: Preventing Well** - 91.8% (n=78) of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with Priority One. In contrast, just 5.9% (n=5) disagreed (either disagreed or strongly disagreed) with this priority. Several themes were frequently mentioned in the comments – for example, the view that healthier lifestyles, although important, do not necessarily prevent dementia.

**Priority Two: Diagnosing Well** - 87.1% (n=74) of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with Priority Two. In contrast, just 9.4% (n=8) disagreed (either disagreed or strongly disagreed) with this Priority. Several themes were frequently mentioned, mostly based on respondents' own/personal experiences of diagnosis and/or referral – these included choices around receiving a diagnosis and the value of receiving a diagnosis and what it can or should lead to with regards to support.

**Priority Three: Supporting Well** - 84.7% (n=72) of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with Priority Three. In contrast, 14.1% (n=12) disagreed (either disagreed or strongly disagreed) with this Priority. There was general agreement for the priority but many respondents wanted greater clarity about how the priority would be achieved and whether there was enough funding to do this. Respondents detailed their own/personal experiences of a current lack of adequate and/or appropriate support for both those diagnosed with dementia and their carers

**Priority Four: Living Well** - 89.4% (n=76) of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with Priority Four. In contrast, just 4.7% (n=4) disagreed (either disagreed or strongly disagreed) with this priority. Several themes were frequently mentioned; these included lack of awareness of support and the need for improved promotion, concerns around appropriate and comprehensive training and educational materials, and resources to implement support.

**Priority Five: Dying Well** - 88.2% (n=75) of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with Priority Five. In contrast, just 4.7% (n=4) disagreed (either strongly disagreed or disagreed) with this priority. Several themes were mentioned including the reality of implementing the priority and consideration of individual circumstances.

**Priority Six: Training Well** - 87.1% (n=74) of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with Priority Six. In contrast, just 8.2% (n=7) disagreed (either strongly disagreed or disagreed) with this Priority. Several themes were mentioned including provision of training for carers, learning from carers, provision of training that is appropriate and up-to-date and adequate funding/resourcing for training.

In total, 41.2% (n=35) of all respondents agreed with the statement 'there is adequate focus on support for carers of people living with dementia in the strategy'. In contrast, just over a quarter of all respondents (27.1%, n=23) did not agree with the statement. The most common response in the comments were suggestions that support could be improved/made better (in terms of availability/accessibility). Other themes frequently mentioned included: importance of support sources/contacts (e.g. local groups, online information, phone/email contacts), and lack of funding/financial support/resources.

In total, 35.3% (n=30) of all respondents agreed (selecting 'strongly agree', 'agree' in the main survey or answering 'yes' in the easy-read version) with the statement 'there are significant gaps in the strategy'. In contrast, almost a quarter of all respondents (23.5%, n=20) (those selecting 'strongly disagree', 'disagree' in the main survey or answering 'no' in the easy-read version) did not agree with the statement. The most

common response in the comments was detail on how the strategy will be achieved is lacking. Other themes frequently mentioned included: general agreement with statement: there are gaps in the strategy, and the importance of support sources/contacts (e.g. trained staff, local groups, online information, phone/email contacts).

In total, 74.1% (n=63) of all respondents agreed with the statement 'the strategy is easy to understand'. In contrast, just 9.4% (n=8) of all respondents did not agree with the statement. The most common response in the comments was around gaps/lack of clarity on strategy delivery, responsibility, measurement of success, resources. Other themes frequently mentioned included: strategy is too simplistic/not enough detail provided, and jargon/clear and simple phraseology/wording is required.

Respondents were asked if they had any ideas on how the priorities set out in the strategy could be delivered. In total, 38 respondents (across both versions of the survey) left a comment. The most common response was around the importance of (consistent) support (sources/contacts) and understanding of the needs of those experiencing dementia (people with dementia and carers). Other themes frequently mentioned included: opportunities for engagement and feedback (listening to individual experiences for understanding) and joined-up thinking/collaboration.

Additional comments in relation to the Draft Living Well with Dementia Strategy were invited. In total, 26 respondents gave a comment to this question. The most common response was around greater emphasis on carers/support for carers (and their lived experience(s)). Other common themes included: detail on implementation is lacking, and general positive comments about the strategy/experiences.