



Voices 4 Wellbeing

Rochdale Borough Local Involvement Network

Have Your Say on Dementia!



Summary Report

March 2011

Julie Harris Development Officer

jules@voices4wellbeing.co.uk

In Partnership with



Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale

On the 11th March 2011 Voices 4 Wellbeing held an event to engage with the public on issues and concerns around Dementia. The event was planned in partnership with Rochdale and District Disability Action Group (RADDAG), Borough Wide User Forum*, Mind, Advocacy in Mind, Partnership for Older People's Project (POPPs), Alzheimer's Society, Rochdale Carer's Association and NHS Heywood, Middleton & Rochdale Primary Care Approximately 54 people attended the event.

*Please note that the Borough Wide User Forum (BWUF) is now know as the Rochdale Boroughwide User Forum (RBUF)

Speakers at the event included Sister Candy James from the Watergrove Memory Clinic who spoke about the different types of Demetia, symptoms and causes; Fozia Waseem Commissioning Manager for Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale Primary Care Trust who spoke about the Dementia Strategy; and Margaret Connolly a carer who spoke about her experience of caring for her husband who had been living with Dementia.

Following the speakers was a chance for the attendees to have their say on Dementia using the interactive *Ask the Audience* equipment, kindly loaned by Heywood, Middleton & Rochdale Primary Care Trust. Questions such as *Do you feel that there is enough information available to the public about Dementia?*, *How would you like to receive information?*, *Is there enough service provision?*, *What services do you feel should be available?*, *Do you believe that your GP has enough skills and knowledge in relation to Dementia?* were asked. 12 interactive questions were asked in total.

The survey results were then analysed and recommendations formulated and published in the full version of this report: ***Have Your Say on Dementia Report March 2011.***

The Main findings were that:

- **Much more information is needed around Dementia**
- **GP's and other frontline health and social care professional need more training around the causes, treatments and effects Dementia can have on people living with Dementia and their carer's.**
- **More service provision is needed for people living with Dementia and their carer's**
- **Continuation of the development of the Memory Wellbeing Cafes is needed**

Next Steps:

On the 21st April Voices 4 Wellbeing met with Fozia Wassem Heywood, Middleton & Rochdale National Health Service (HMR NHS) Commissioner to discuss the recommendations made in the report. Fozia agreed to incorporate the recommendations by Voices 4 Wellbeing made in Rochdale Borough's *Dementia Strategy and Implementation Plan*. Voices 4 Wellbeing has since received a formal written response to the recommendations and a draft copy of the *Dementia Strategy and Implementation Plan* for review. Once completed, the strategy will be made available on Voices 4 Wellbeing's website. www.voices4wellbeing.co.uk or by request.

Also discussed was the possibility of a follow up event. In addition, Voices 4 Wellbeing has agreed to support Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) with some focus group work with the *Dementia Forum*.

'It was very helpful to sit down and have a discussion about the issues raised at the event and how we could work collaboratively in the future.'

(HMR PCT May 2011)

A full version of this report will can be made available by request. If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the report or be kept up-to-date with any future work, you can register with us by calling the team on 01706 510 845 or by emailing steven@voices4wellbeing.co.uk