

Health and Social Care Cabinet Member Report

4th February 2010

- **Sefton Dementia Strategy**

Sefton has implemented an Interim Dementia Strategy which builds on, and gives a local interpretation to, the National Dementia Strategy that was launched in February 2009. The Sefton Interim Strategy sets out proposals for the improvement of services for people with dementia over the next 5 years.

The incidence of dementia increase with age and the older population of Sefton is set to increase faster than that of the UK. Dementia can affect adults of any age, but is more common in older people. One person in 20 over 65 has a form of dementia, rising to one in five in those over 80. Dementia in people aged under 65 is relatively rare – less than 3% of all those with dementia.

In Sefton by 2010 there will be 56,300 people aged 65 plus (approximately 20% of the total population) of whom 15,600 are aged 80-84 years and 7,100 85 years and above.

The older population will continue to grow, both in absolute and proportionate terms. By 2025 it is predicted there will be 70,800 Sefton residents aged 65 and above (26% of the total population) of whom 22,300 will be aged 80 plus.

This ageing of the population means costs for health and social care services will rise and are likely to become increasingly unsustainable without service re-design.

Priorities for the next five years include:

- improved public and professional awareness of dementia
- increased early intervention and diagnosis
- improved community services
- improved quality of care for people with dementia in general hospitals
- better care for people with dementia in care homes
- an informed and effective workforce

The full Interim Dementia Strategy can be found on the Intranet:

<http://intranet.sefton.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=1982>

- **Social Work Taskforce**

The Government has released radical reform proposals for social work in the document “Building a Safe, Confident Future” (www.dh.gov.uk).

An Inclusive Executive Summary is available on-line, but headlines include:

- The development of a National College of Social Work.
- Licence to practice only granted after a “probationary year”.
- Career Development Framework to be implemented to keep experienced practitioners “practicing”.

Please see the website for further information. Issues relating to this initiative will be included within the Transforming Social Care Workforce Development Workstream.

Councillor Barry Griffiths
Health and Social Care Cabinet Member