

Newsletter



COUNTY DURHAM DEMENTIA ADVISOR SERVICE

Issue 4: February 2017

Partnerships make a difference!



Northern Echo January 23rd 2017.

http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/15042280.Dementia_friendly_cafe_opens_its_doors_in_Shildon/

A new community memory café has opened at Chestnut Court Communal Lounge in Shildon. It takes place on the first Tuesday of every month from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Paula Nelson and Kathryn Jenkins from Shildon Alive run the café with the numbers attending increasing dramatically by the second meeting, held this February.

The café offers people living with dementia and their carers a place to socialise in a safe environment and the opportunity to take part in activities.

Hannah Johnson, the Dementia Advisor for Sedgefield, has been involved in developing the café and works closely with the partners involved to help to ensure that it is a success. Partners include: Livin Homes and Communities; their repairs and maintenance contractor, Mears; Health Express and Bishop Auckland College. Hannah is on hand to offer advice, support and guidance to those with concerns about their memory and to those living with dementia and their carers.

Vicky Miller, Livin Community Regeneration Manager, said “using the facilities at Chestnut Close and with the help of the Alzheimer’s Society, we can offer real support to those who need it the most in our communities”.

Free transport is also available through Health Express. Please contact Gemma Dobson on 03000 268834 for further details.

If anyone is interested in finding out more, or if you are interested in exploring similar developments in your area, please contact Alzheimer’s Society on 0191 3890400.

ACHIEVEMENTS

REFERRALS

Up to the end of January 2017 we have received almost 800 referrals.

Approximately one third of these are self-referrals from people with concerns about their memory or from their families or carers. This is excellent news as it shows progress against breaking the stigma that still exists around dementia.

Self-referrals received are in response to hearing about what the Service offers and in response to other publicity, including articles in the local press.

We have made over 500 visits to professionals, including visits to statutory, voluntary and community organisations. Referrals from professionals can be made through the Advice in County Durham Portal or directly by secure email. To ensure referrals are received securely, please use the attached form and return completed forms to:

durhamandchester@alzheimers.org.uk

RAISING AWARENESS

We have attended numerous events across the County to raise awareness and to encourage referrals. These included events such as Patient Power in NHS Planning and DDES Commissioning Intentions.

We have also hosted information stalls at a variety of professional events, including the Better Health Programme and Fulfilling Lives.

We have also provided information about the Service at a number of meetings and Groups across the County, such as the Women's Institute. Participation at these events has also led to new referrals and local press coverage which helped to raise awareness of the Service further.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES (DFCs)

We have actively supported a wide range of partners and stakeholders in the development of DFCs.

There are currently 5 Dementia Friendly Communities in the County, all with the same goal of helping people remain an active part of their community. If you want to help your community to become Dementia Friendly, please contact Andrew Ball on 0191 3890400.

SIDE by SIDE



The Side by Side Service seeks to match people with dementia with a volunteer who has similar interests so that they can share mutually enjoyable experiences together.

This type of friendship makes a huge difference to people affected by dementia. The great thing about this service is that it is tailored to individuals' preferences, circumstances and interests.

For example, 23 year old music lover Miranda Wheeler has partnered up with engineer and accordionist Bob Corriea, 91, who lives in Bowburn. They enjoy listening to jazz bands and choirs at Working Men's Clubs and other venues. Bob said that he doesn't think of himself as someone with dementia, saying "I'm young at heart. I still enjoy life and look forward to my outings with Miranda."
http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/15089904_Valentines_Day_Charity_turns_matchmaker_for_dementia_project/

Whether the person with dementia is musical, enjoys fishing or football, is a keen gardener or an animal-lover, it's important to Alzheimer's Society that they get the chance to continue to enjoy what they love.

Our volunteers have a wealth of experience to offer and are a wonderfully diverse group.

Contact Details:

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