

Dementia Support Networking Meeting

Thursday February 17th

The group invited to attend the meeting, was kept deliberately small and included people living with dementia together with their carers, representatives from AWP NHS Trust; Alzheimer's Support, SaSS, MUSE and other grassroots organisations providing activities and support to people living with dementia and their carers. We did not extend the invitation beyond Salisbury although a number of us already work in the outlying villages and towns. This was a preliminary meeting to obtain an up to date overview of the current services and support, identify gaps in the service and how we might fill them.

SUMMARY

Although Salisbury is well served on paper, the sheer volume of people with memory issues cannot be supported adequately and on a regular basis under the existing structure. There is room to improve the pathways and referral structure between GPs, AWP, AS and out into the community. We realise that there are hundreds of people both diagnosed and undiagnosed, who are living at home, who do not know about the support available to them (this seems to be both an information and a transportation issue). Alzheimers' Support says there are waiting lists for their activities; but AS does not often refer people onto the other activities available.

Discussion was held about the Wiltshire Dementia Strategy 2015 – 2021 and how far this had been implemented. The group wished to know what was planned for 2022 and beyond at county level. AWP NHS Trust confirmed there is a Community Framework being put in place over the next 5 years which should significantly change the provision. APW was pleased to be included in this and other relevant meetings (Dementia steering group at Odstock) as previously there was no linking. Alzheimers' Support is developing its premises in Scot's Lane, Salisbury and there was discussion around whether to call this a Day Centre or a Dementia Hub/Centre, which is more inclusive. We want the centre to be an information and drop in venue as well as providing daily services so that everyone can benefit.

ACTIONS

1. Next meeting in 2 months, will be wider and will include outlying areas, GP surgeries and other agencies, together with group that attended on 17th February. (Muse CIC)
2. Smaller working group comprising mainly people living with dementia to be established to look at making Salisbury accessible (this means dementia-friendly but will also be relevant for older people and people with disabilities). (Muse CIC)
3. Public event to be organised, with keynote speaker from York – Wendy Mitchell (author of *Somebody I Used to Know* and *Things I Want Everyone to Know about Dementia*). The group from York has already developed a Dementia Strategy for York, which we would like to use to develop something similar for Salisbury. (Muse CIC)
4. Documentation already available, to be reviewed. New edition of Dementia Booklet to be produced over coming months and distributed to all libraries and GPs. (SaSS)
5. Help with forms, paperwork and administration to be investigated, since many PLWD and their carers need to fill in huge documents to obtain funds.