

THE LAVERSTOCK MEMORY SUPPORT GROUP

2 Riverside Close
Laverstock
Salisbury
SP1 1QW

The Southern Wiltshire Area Board
Bourne Hill
Salisbury
SP1 3UZ

8 May 2017

Application for funding for The Laverstock Memory Support Group

The Laverstock Memory Support Group is a re-launch of a group for people living with dementia that was funded by Wiltshire Council from 2009 until 31 March 2017. At that point, Wiltshire Council discontinued their contract for the Group.

In the run up to March 2017, Wiltshire Council published an invitation to tender for services for people with dementia in Wiltshire, but this was clearly designed for much larger scale organisations that could cover the whole county and provide a range of different services.

There was no scope in the invitation to tender for the funding of smaller activities with a specific set of aims - like the work of the Memory Support Group in Laverstock.

At the end of March, it was announced that dementia services in Wiltshire would now be provided by Alzheimer's Support. Following this announcement, I approached Alzheimer's Support to see if they were able to assist with a re-launched Memory Support Group.

This led to a Letter of Agreement with Alzheimer's Support covering the work of the Laverstock Memory Support Group being signed at the beginning of April 2017.

However, Alzheimer's Support is only able to contribute £5,000 to the project, which is about 50 per cent of the funding previously provided by Wiltshire Council.

This means we need to find additional funds to sustain the work of the new Laverstock Memory Support Group.

An important principal in the Group has been that there is no charge to members.

This is because it is recognised that many people living with dementia find that the effects of their dementia and the costs of care leave them, and their families, in a financially difficult position.

Nevertheless, with the re-launch we have decided to invite those who feel able to do so, to make voluntary contributions to the Group.

I am therefore now approaching the Southern Wiltshire Area Board for a grant of £4,000 for the current Financial Year, bearing in mind that

- a. The work is based in the Board's area of responsibility,
- b. A significant proportion of the members live in, or have close connections with the area,
- c. One of the aims of the Laverstock Memory Support Group is to strengthen links with the local community, making them more aware of the needs of people living with dementia and opportunities to make services in our area more 'dementia friendly'.

I am enclosing the Health & Wellbeing Funding Application on the form I have been given.

If you require any clarification, or additional information, please feel free to contact me by any of the routes shown on the Application Form.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Bartlett

Elizabeth Bartlett
Dementia Consultant & Trainer