

## New reports focus on dementia services

Healthwatch Wiltshire is set to publish two reports detailing its work on how dementia friendly initiatives are working in the county, and how feedback from local people has seen the implementation of dementia training for care home staff and the introduction of more community groups.

Over the last four years, dementia has been a priority area for us, and we have gathered over 1,600 views and experiences from people affected by dementia.

One of the key things we were told is that dementia awareness is improving and that this is important.

### Dementia friendly initiatives

This project had two elements, the first aimed to gather information from dementia friendly initiatives – such as support groups, awareness sessions and social events – and the second to talk to people living with dementia and their carers on what they value most about these initiatives.

Our key findings included:

- Most people living with dementia and their carers feel that their local community is dementia friendly and feel part of it,
- The effects of dementia friendly initiatives are positive and wide-ranging, including improved physical and mental health, independence and community involvement,
- The successes of these initiatives closely aligned with what people said they found most useful,
- Dementia friendly initiatives would value support with promotional materials and publicity.



### You said, we did

People told us that training care home staff to a high standard was very important in order to provide good quality care for people with dementia and complex needs.

People also said that they thought specialist services for people living with dementia were high quality but that they weren't always able to access them.

We highlighted people's views about training to Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group. Since then organisations have worked together to organise specialist training for care home staff.

Meanwhile, we worked with Alzheimer's Support to identify areas where there was a lack of groups, the types of groups people wanted and what they valued most from these groups.

As a result, there are now more groups for people living with dementia, which reflect what people told us they wanted, covering interests such as gardening, art and wildlife, as well as more discussion groups and memory cafes.

Thanks to our partners for their support with these projects. Both reports will be published in July.