

Councillors' Briefing Note No. 135

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Date Prepared: 31st January 2013 **Direct Line:** 01225 712554

Working in partnership to support people with dementia in Wiltshire

Wiltshire Council is working with partners to increase awareness about dementia and ensure that people with dementia and their carers are supported to live well in Wiltshire. It commissions a range of services from Alzheimer's Support (west and east Wiltshire) and Alzheimer's Society (north and south Wiltshire) that are available to people with dementia and their carers.

Over the last two years, the council has been working closely with these organisations and improvements have been made to local services to make sure that they are equitably distributed across the county so that people have the same access to services, irrespective of whether they live in east, north, south or west Wiltshire. These services include Singing for the Brain, memory cafes, training sessions for carers and specialist dementia support and advice. They are designed to ensure that people with dementia and their carers have access to activities and groups, which are dementia-friendly and offer a place to meet others in similar situations.

In addition to this, a new dementia adviser service is being launched later this year. Funded by Wiltshire Council and NHS Wiltshire, the service will provide people with dementia and their carers with a personalised information and signposting service to ensure that people get the right information at the right time. More details will be released later in the year.

As well as ensuring that services are in place, Wiltshire Council plays a key role in making sure that people are able to recognise the possible signs of dementia and know where to go to seek advice and support. It has developed a set of dementia awareness raising materials called 'There's nothing wrong with my memory!' which provides information about some of the possible symptoms of dementia, what to do if you have concerns and the support available locally. The council will also be working closely with Alzheimer's Support and Alzheimer's Society to celebrate Dementia Awareness Week, 19th – 25th May 2013 with information sessions taking place in libraries across the county. More details will be released nearer the time.