

Dementia Action Alliance

Lewisham

March 2016

1st Lewisham DAA Newsletter

It has been nearly a year since our very successful launch event of the Lewisham Dementia Action Alliance in May 2015. It is fantastic to see the developments since then and how much of interest there is in Lewisham in becoming a more dementia friendly community.

The Lewisham DAA has increased greatly in size; we now have 17 members from a wide variety of organisations. Everyone is working hard on implementing their actions which are all supporting us to work towards Dementia Friendly Community Status.

Our big achievements in Lewisham over the last year

Dementia-friendly Catford South:



We are in the process of applying for formal accreditation to be seen as Working Towards Dementia Friendly Community Status for the Catford South ward and making it the first area in Lewisham to be an accredited Dementia Friendly Community. On the 3rd February 2016 an initial launch and awareness raising event for key stakeholders of the Catford South assembly took place to get the support of these organisations in the area. The event

was backed supported by Councillor Eva Stamirowski and attended by people from 28 different organisations, of which 26 pledged to join the Lewisham DAA and support us in making Lewisham more dementia-friendly.



We even had The Diamond Club sign up to the DAA on that very same evening.

During the Local Assembly meeting on the 5th March, the Dementia-Friendly Catford South campaign was introduced to the wider public. Once successful in Catford South the Lewisham DAA is planning to expand this work to other wards in Lewisham with the aim of eventually the whole of Lewisham being dementia-friendly.

For more information on this project,

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please visit <http://lovecatford.co.uk/>
or contact Karin Barthel
(karin.barthel@nhs.net) or Lucy Formolli
(lucy.formolli@lewisham.gov.uk).



Dementia diagnosis rate:

Across the borough our Dementia Diagnosis Rate has increased significantly since last year and we are performing above the national target at 69.2%. Waiting times at the Lewisham Memory Service have reduced significantly over the last year.

Service user involvement:

In September we spoke to people living with dementia in Lewisham to find out what a dementia friendly community to them would look like. We also spoke to carers of people with dementia to identify what a dementia friendly community would look like. The following statements were the key messages from the events:

- Slow-lane at the supermarket and shop assistants reminding them to take all their belongings;
- Neighbours keeping an eye out;
- Raising awareness with adults but also with school children;
- Having a meet-up place/more groups/cafes/dementia friendly pub;
- Longer GP-appointments;

- Having some identification at the bank or supermarket to be able to let employees know discreetly that they have a cognitive impairment;
- Being able to stay at home for as long as possible with support;
- Knowing which organisations have signed up to be Dementia Friendly

The findings of these conversations are now feeding into our future plans to work towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Community and improving the quality of life for people living with dementia and their carers.

Our current members:

Age Exchange, Age UK Lewisham and Southwark, Alzheimer's Society, Bromley & Lewisham Mind, Carers Lewisham, Caribbean Social Forum, Dementia Dialogue, Deptford Methodist Mission Disabled People's Contact (DPC), Diamond Club, Elder Peoples Support Project, Home Instead Senior Care - Greenwich & Bexley, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, Lewisham MindCare Dementia Support, NHS Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group and London Borough of Lewisham, Positive Ageing Council of Lewisham, Seniors Lewisham, Sydenham Garden.

Dementia Awareness Week 2016:

Dementia Awareness Week this year will be from the 15th – 21st May 2016. The Alzheimer's Society's theme for this year's Dementia Awareness Week is 'Getting Out and About'. Lewisham's DAA is keen to support this vision and is asking museums, art venues and our local sports centres to

plan for something special during this week and enable our residents to enjoy a fantastic time in our community. Please let us know by the 31st March 2016 what your plans will be, so that we can advertise it widely around Lewisham and London.

So far Lewisham MindCare will we have display stalls on 18th May at the Riverdale Centre in Lewisham and a stall at the Lewisham market on the 19th May to raise awareness for dementia.

Other News and Reminders:

Action plans:

We'd like to remind all members to update their action plans on a regular basis but at least once a year. If you have any questions with regards to your action plans, please contact Karin Barthel: karin.barthel@nhs.net



Dementia Connect:

Dementia Connect is Alzheimer's Society's new dementia services directory for anyone affected by dementia in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. With over 4,000 listings of local information, support and services, it's the most comprehensive and easy-to-use online directory of its kind. Service

users can enter their postcode or place name to find voluntary, statutory and private services nearest and most relevant to them. Each listing includes a map and clear, essential information about that service.

As an organisation you can promote your services for free and use Dementia Connect as a widget on your website to enable service users and their carers to find out more about the services available in the area.

For more information on this and how to set up your widget, please follow the following link:

<https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/dementiaconnectbusiness>

Dementia Friendly London:

Alzheimer's Society and the Pan London Dementia Action Alliance have just launched their manifesto to make London the first dementia friendly capital city in the world. In that campaign they are seeking the support of the mayoral candidates. To make our capital the first dementia friendly capital in the world we however need much more than that such as:

- Many more dementia friendly high-streets;
- Making transport easier for people with dementia;
- Raising awareness of dementia and how to reduce the risk of developing it;
- Increasing the number and nature of activities for people with dementia;
- More dementia friendly employers;
- Dramatically increasing the numbers of Dementia Friends from the current 71,625.

For further information on these plans, please contact Hope Virgo on:

Hope.Virgo@alzheimers.org.uk

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