ABOUT THE NORTH EAST DEMENTIA ALLIANCE

WHAT IS THE NORTH EAST DEMENTIA ALLIANCE?

The North East Dementia Alliance is a partnership of key organisations and individuals concerned with the effective implementation of the National Dementia Strategy in the north east. We work to drive up improvements in health and care, create dementia friendly communities and improve research.

WHY DO WE NEED AN ALLIANCE?

The number of people in the north east predicted to have late onset dementia (65 years and over) in 2012 was 32,563. By 2030 this will increase to 50,896. The North East Dementia Alliance exists to support the development and delivery of best practice in dementia care so that we can provide better services for the thousands of us who will be affected by dementia in our lives.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We influence policy making to ensure that the views of people with dementia are taken into account.

We share innovative and best practice across the region, gather information and data about dementia and dementia services and identify how specialist dementia services and wider services should work to ensure people with dementia have the support and equal access they deserve.

We also lead and sponsor projects which will have benefits across the north east, preventing duplication of work and enabling innovative approaches and services for people with dementia to be developed.

MEMBERSHIP

Local NHS and social care providers, commissioners, housing providers, people living with dementia, carers, Alzheimer’s Society, Age UK, Skills for Care, DeNDRoN (research network), education providers and more...
A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR LYNNE CORNER...

Members of the alliance are leading the response to the challenge of dementia in the north east. Since 2008 we have supported over 80 projects, harnessing the knowledge and experience of people with dementia and their carers to improve health and social care, housing and care homes. We have also worked closely with dementia research colleagues to further the evidence base on outcomes which matter to people with dementia.

Our membership includes a diverse range of business, community and statutory organisations, with a shared determination to raise awareness and understanding and energetically respond to the needs of people with dementia, their carers and families to make a real and lasting difference to their lives.

WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED SO FAR?

The alliance was formed in 2008 and since then we have:

- Developed statistical information.
- Held a series of good practice events.
- Developed a dementia alliance workforce action plan.
- Collated details of training resources available to the NHS, local authority and independent sectors.
- Supported care homes to implement the Care Homes objective of the National Dementia Strategy.

ON GOING WORK...

- Development of Dementia Friendly Communities, using our research report on what DFCs are, by sponsorship of a number of DFC projects.
- Development of a statistical report and good practice DVD on minority communities and dementia in the north east.
- Work with care homes to develop a self assessment tool and providing support and training in understanding the use of design, colour, lighting etc to support independence.
- Development of innovative projects including timely diagnosis by working with housing providers.

THE MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE

Key to the success of the alliance is to involve people with dementia in every aspect of our work. We engage with people beyond the alliance through dementia forums and people with dementia support the delivery of our events including the recent ‘Joining the Dots’ dementia friendly communities conferences. We are also developing a leadership and engagement course for people with dementia and their carers, and involving them in its design.

GET INVOLVED!

Debbie Smith is the Regional National Dementia Strategy Development Manager and has been involved with leading and supporting the delivery of the strategy in the North East right from the start. To find out more about what is going on and help make a difference, contact Debbie at neda@newcastle.ac.uk or on 07827 253 415