Dementia portal

The North of England online dementia portal ‘Live well’ offers a simple, one-stop-shop for information to support people with dementia, their carers and healthcare professionals.

The site is still being developed, but when it is complete it will include a ‘dementia journey’ section where people can share their life stories and a service directory.

You can visit the site at:
www.livewelldementia.co.uk

Dementia friendly communities projects awarded funding

As part of the North East Strategic Health Authority’s drive to encourage the spread of dementia friendly communities (DFCs), £63k was made available to regional DFC projects.

33 bids were received totalling £410k, and with so many great ideas, it was difficult to allocate funding. In the end, seven projects were successful with The Northern Rock Foundation offering to support the projects with advice, information sharing and some additional funding.

We’ll report on the progress of the projects in future updates.

Dates for the diary

Dementia Awareness Week 2013
19 - 25 May - the theme for this year’s event is talking with the headline, ‘Worrying changes nothing. Talking changes everything.’


Year of action on dementia awareness, Department of Health, North East Regional Conference – 20th June 2013.
Alzheimer’s Society update

The Alzheimer’s Society has had plenty to report recently with local dementia alliances now being set up in Northumberland and Gateshead and the launch of the ‘Dementia Friends’ project [www.dementiafriends.org.uk](http://www.dementiafriends.org.uk) well underway – remember we’re still looking for dementia friends champions right across our region.

There’s lots going on in local communities with Northumbria Police delivering dementia awareness sessions and developing a card for officers to carry that raises awareness of dementia. Co-op stores in Blyth are also running a pilot to raise awareness of dementia, which begins this month.

An updated report following on from the 2008 Home from Home document has also been released by the society highlighting opportunities for improving standards of dementia care in care homes – You can read the report ‘Low expectations Attitudes on choice, care and community for people with dementia in care homes’ at [http://alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?fileID=1628](http://alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?fileID=1628)

End of life report

A report has been produced by NHS North East with recommendations for commissioners to consider when commissioning end of life care for people with dementia. The recommendations include training requirements, extending bereavement support and awareness of dementia. The report also promotes the need to use deciding right materials.

Dementia and minority communities

A training DVD is currently being created to support staff working with people with dementia in minority communities. Local theatre company ‘Open Clasp’ is working with Bangladeshi and gypsy and traveller communities to create the DVD which will be launched at a series of events targeting minority groups, commissioners and service providers this summer.

Watch this space for more about these events and to find out how the DVD is progressing.

Best practice acute hospital care

A six month piece of work ‘The Right Care Creating Dementia Friendly Hospitals’ to encourage all acute trusts to sign up to the Dementia Action Alliance ended in March.

Our health trusts have received a report from the Dementia Action Alliance which shows trusts how they compare to others on key aspects of dementia care including length of stay and excess mortality. The reports will be used to inform trust action plans to address where they can make improvements.

People with dementia are five times more likely to die in hospital than in their own homes or in a care home so as part of creating dementia friendly hospitals, the Alliance has made funding available to do some work on end of life care. There is a lot of good work in this area which needs to be brought together and built upon. Watch this space for news on how this funding is being spent.

Taking part workshops

Thanks to innovation funding in North Tyneside and Northumberland, ‘taking part’ workshops have been taking place to help connect people with dementia to a range of activities. These workshops have allowed for targeted application of the dementia friendly communities recommendations. The ultimate aim is to produce a best practice toolkit and champion those providers that are doing things well which will also help to increase awareness of dementia.

Questions and contact...

How useful do you find websites about dementia care and support?

Are you aware of where good end of life care is provided for people with dementia?

What would you ask the Secretary of State for Health about dementia?

For more info or to feedback your answers contact [debbie.smith@northeast.nhs.uk](mailto:debbie.smith@northeast.nhs.uk) or call [07826864799](tel:07826864799).