

Southend-on-Sea Dementia Community Support

From 1st April 2017,

a new Dementia Community Support service, providing enhanced support to people living with dementia and their carers, will be launched across Southend-on-Sea.

The new community focused service will offer accessible and flexible support tailored to reflect what you personally need and follows an extensive consultation that took place in 2016.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME AND THE PERSON WHO CARES FOR ME?

It is important to emphasise to you that we are improving our dementia services, and making them more community focused. You will still be able to access much of the same support that you currently receive from the Alzheimer's Society.

However we will be phasing out the Dementia Café's and Peer Support Groups, and these will be replaced with a new type of peer support from the Dementia Community Support Team. We will be continuing with the most popular group sessions; Singing for the Brain and the Activity & Mens Groups.

WHAT IF I HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Up until Friday 31st March 2017 you can contact the Alzheimer's Society on 01702 345156.

You can also contact Jo Dickinson or Nancy Smith at the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council Integrated Commissioning Team on 01702 215000 or email nancysmith@southend.gov.uk.

Nancy Smith will also be attending group sessions prior to the 1st April 2017 to speak to service users and explain the new Dementia Community Support service.



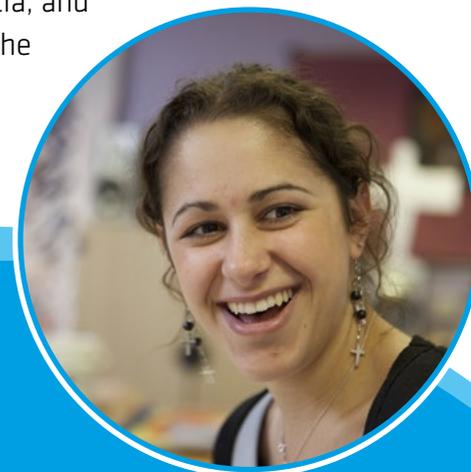
MEET THE TEAM:



LOCALITY DEMENTIA NAVIGATOR

This is a new role that will see one person available to support you and your family throughout the dementia experience.

Based in each of the four localities within the Borough (West/West Central/East Central/East), Dementia Navigators will offer support and guidance through community dementia services people diagnosed with dementia pre-diagnosed with dementia, and their carer. This role will also provide the crucial link between the person living with dementia and their carer and health, social care and community support.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKER

The Community Engagement Worker will work with information providers to make sure that they are giving the right advice, advocacy and guidance. This will ensure a consistent approach and make sure that people are getting the right support at the right time.

These providers include; Southend -on-Sea Borough Council, GP Practices, Carers Hub, advocacy services, community groups, libraries, Southend Hospital, voluntary sector providers, care homes, domiciliary care agencies, the Department of Works and Pensions, churches and places of worship, emergency services, Tourist information, parks and pier staff, as well as online information sources such as Southend Information Portal, 111 service, and NHS Choices.

DEMENTIA NETWORK CO-ORDINATOR

Peer Support Networks are crucial in supporting the community to live well, by promoting health, happiness and wellbeing through a variety of social opportunities in the community. The Dementia Network Co-ordinator will work across all four localities to identify and develop a range of social opportunities which are age and interest appropriate whilst maximising partnership working and encouraging peer led support.

SOUTHEND DEMENTIA ACTION ALLIANCE CO-ORDINATOR

The Co-ordinator will lead the Southend Dementia Action Alliance (SDAA). Their key aim will be to build on our dementia friendly community status by increasing membership.

They will also promote widespread understanding of dementia across Southend-on-Sea through the Dementia Friends initiative and encourage a truly dementia friendly Borough and community through changing attitudes and raising awareness. This will all contribute to supporting people affected by dementia to live well.



We know that change can be difficult for everyone so Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and the Alzheimer's Society are working closely together, and with you, to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible.