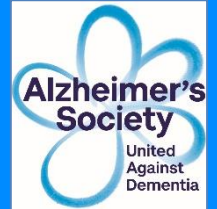


# Newsletter



## Darlington Dementia Advice & Support Team

Issue no.11 August 2020

Despite some lovely weather, for many of us the summer is very different this year! We hope everyone is staying safe and taking care of themselves during these challenging times.

The Alzheimer's Society Dementia Adviser and Support service is still operating in Darlington via telephone, post and email. In this newsletter, we would like to inform you of our current services and how we have been supporting people during the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as mentioning a few of our highlights from last year!

Please remember we are here for everyone affected by dementia!



### Dementia Adviser Darlington Key Stats!

In 2019, the Dementia Adviser Service provided information, advice and support to **216 individual service users with 1376 interactions** (home visits, telephone, email, post).

By July 2020, the Dementia Adviser Service has reached out to **97 Service Users with 774 interactions** so far this year.

During the period of March to July this year, we have carried out **215 welfare calls** to people affected by dementia in Darlington!

### Current Services (correct at date of issue)

Our **Dementia Adviser** service is still operating via telephone, email and post however we are unable to offer home visits at this time. The Dementia Adviser service provides one-to-one support to people with dementia, carers and family members. It is a drop-in service so can support at any point in the person's journey from pre-diagnosis and assessment to the later stages. We can support the person and their carers and we accept all professional and self-referrals. Referrals can be made to the [DarlingtonTeesValley@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:DarlingtonTeesValley@alzheimers.org.uk) email address or to our Richmond Office on **01748 825817**.

Our **Dementia Support** service provides information, guidance and practical support to help people understand dementia, cope with day to day living with dementia and prepare for the future. The service also supports people to access other services. This service is accessed via the Dementia Adviser service when a person has been assessed to having more long-term support needs.

All **Group services** including our St Herbert's café and Singing for the Brain are postponed until further notice due to the current circumstances. However, we are keeping in touch with all our service users who attend our groups in Darlington to check on their welfare and provide support where necessary. Our colleague Tony McFarland in Richmond is running virtual Singing for the Brain sessions- for more information, call **01748 825817**.

## Dementia Friendly Darlington

Dementia Friendly Darlington is a partnership of public, private and voluntary sector organisations working together with the aim of making Darlington and surrounding areas dementia friendly.

In April 2020, Alzheimer's Society Belinda Williams was appointed as Dementia Friendly Communities Coordinator in Darlington. Belinda has a wealth of experience working with communities in East Durham and she is working hard in Darlington to make communities and organisations more dementia friendly. Belinda is delivering a public **Dementia Friends session virtually on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 1-1.30pm**- for more information contact Belinda on the below details.

One of the projects Belinda is working on at present is **Dementia Voice Darlington** which is led by and working with people affected by dementia to change the way we see, act and talk about dementia. If you or someone you know would like to be involved with Dementia Voice Darlington, please contact Belinda on 07483 137521 or email:

[Belinda.Williams@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:Belinda.Williams@alzheimers.org.uk). The Dementia Adviser service is working with Belinda to reach out to different communities and people affected by dementia.

## Our Covid-19 response

In response to Covid-19, the Alzheimer's Society continues to provide telephone support and has developed an interim service which provides regular Welfare Calls to our current service users, many of whom were previously using our group services, and the additional offer of a Companion Call to support with social isolation.

On a national level, **121,700 Welfare Calls** have been made by local services since 16<sup>th</sup> March!

**19,144 companion calls** have supported **2221 people** affected by dementia!

**269 companion calls** were made by volunteers in Tees Valley, Hambleton & Richmondshire from March to July

## Highlight from 2019-PRIDE!

Unfortunately, things have been a little different this year but we would like to look back on one of our highlights of last year attending PRIDE! What a great event it was and we were privileged to be able to attend and be there for members of the LGBT+ community!



Picture: Dementia Support Worker Kirsty Flynn (left) and Dementia Adviser Kathryn Hardwick (right) at PRIDE 2019

## Highlight from 2019- Consultation Event!

Another highlight from 2019 was when Dementia Friendly Darlington hosted a Consultation Event for people living with dementia and their families to come along and share their views on services in Darlington.

Everyone who attended was given the opportunity to share their experiences and give suggestions on improving Darlington for people living with dementia.



## Referrals

Referrals should be made via your own organisation's secure email by completing and sending the attached referral form to

[DarlingtonTeesValley@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:DarlingtonTeesValley@alzheimers.org.uk).

### Contact Details:

Alzheimer's Society  
Tees Valley, Hambleton & Richmondshire  
Garget Walker House  
25A Olav Road, Richmond, DL10 4PU  
T: 01748 825817

E: [DarlingtonTeesValley@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:DarlingtonTeesValley@alzheimers.org.uk)

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