

# DEMENTIA DAY CARE SERVICE



**WAKEFIELD  
HOSPICE**  
SHARING THE CARE NOW AND  
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

**30TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
1990-2020**

## Executive Summary

As part of its commitment to caring for people living with dementia, Wakefield Hospice is introducing a new, person-centred, dementia day care service and is looking for funding to increase capacity on an additional day each week specifically for advanced dementia care.

Funding will change lives for the better. Not just the life of the person living with dementia but their family and carers too.

## About Wakefield Hospice

Wakefield Hospice is an adult hospice committed to providing the highest level of symptom management and end of life care for people with a life limiting illness and supports families and carers throughout the period of illness and into bereavement. It employs 50 full time and 75 part time staff who are supported by 450 volunteers.

On average, every year, the hospice cares for

- 230 inpatients every year on the 16 bedded in-care facility,
- 3800 day therapy attendances

Of these

- 74% of patients are aged 65+
- 12.5% of people cared for have a dementia diagnosis (primary or secondary)

*NB: many others receive dementia care based on assessment at the hospice without a formal diagnosis prior to admission*

Dementia is a core priority within the Wakefield CCG End of Life Project and the Wakefield Hospice strategy. As part of the hospice's commitment to advancing care for people living with dementia, an End of Life Care Admiral Nurse (EOLCAN) post has been appointed – Wakefield is one of only 20 hospices in the country to do this.

The hospice is located in one of the top 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in England (<http://bit.ly/2qldK6b>).

## The Facts

Dementia is a terminal diagnosis and the number of people diagnosed with the illness continues to increase. The DOH project this to be over 1 million by 2025 (DOH 2017). Most people living with dementia will be over the age of 65, and, in Wakefield the older population is estimated to increase by 22% by 2031.

In September 2018:

- 4078 (65+) people were estimated to be living with dementia in the Wakefield CCG area
- 2,728 people (65+) were diagnosed with dementia

This is a diagnosis rate of 66.9% compared to a rate of 66.7% for England.

It is estimated that the number of people aged 65+ living with dementia in Wakefield will increase to 6,900 by 2030 (Director of Public Health Report for Wakefield 2017: Better Mental Health For All).

## The project – the need - the benefit

The hospice's day care service will help meet growing demand and provide opportunities for some that may otherwise be unavailable. It received a real boost recently when a capital grant was secured to develop the day therapy unit to provide a safe, suitable and secure environment allowing for continued care for people as their illness progresses to a more advanced level (prior to these changes, the environment had been risk assessed as suitable for mild to moderate dementia).

There are currently no known community facilities for people with advanced dementia to be referred to. Effectively care would just stop when people are at their most vulnerable. Thanks to this funding, the hospice can now provide a suitable environment for continued support as the need for care intensifies and carers become more isolated as a consequence.



Due to the complex needs of care required for people with advanced dementia, it is not suitable to integrate within existing groups. Therefore, funding is being sought to enhance all aspects of advanced care on an additional day, each week throughout the year, where more one-on-one, specialist care can be provided.

It costs £400 to provide all aspects of each day care session (e.g. support materials, entertainment, refreshments, utilities, and staff expertise). Each session would comfortably benefit 12 local people and their carers. The aim is to provide this service, each week, for 48 weeks of the year.

## The benefits

The words from one wife and carer will no doubt echo across the community to anyone affected..... *"The devastation of receiving the diagnosis cannot be underestimated – life is on a downward spiral, it will never improve – it will only get worse."*

That's when times were 'normal'. The coronavirus and lockdown will have only exacerbated feelings of loneliness, isolation, despair, depression, and worry - most of the people who will use this service will have been in the 'at risk' category during the pandemic so are likely to have had limited contact with others. The day care service will provide community care, bringing people together to share experiences and benefit from support available, reducing the feeling of isolation and providing essential respite which is known to benefit mental wellness and physical wellbeing. It will also.....

- Provide support sessions for people with dementia – services provided will be based on an assessment of need and will be offered on a short term pre-planned basis over a number of set weeks.
- Provide valuable stimulus outside their home
- Support people with dementia to remain living in their own homes
- Enhance the quality of life of individuals and their carers
- Provide carer relief/respite on a short term and planned basis
- Ensure that all Service Users are provided with a person-centred plan that places the individual at the heart of the Service.
- Ensure people with dementia have access to palliative care and support at a time they need it.

Additionally, the hospice will provide a safe environment and specialist staff to have vital but difficult advance care planning discussions to support families with plans should the person with dementia become terminally ill, ensuring plans are communicated should the carer become too unwell to continue home support.

We know from the successful Positive Steps programme that the dementia care at the hospice gives carers confidence that their care receiver is safe. Jan, who attended the programme with husband Liam says



Pictured (Left - Right): Debby (EOLCAN), Jan, Sandra (hospice dementia champion) and Liam

*"Affordable respite is the one thing that is lacking and carers really crave.*

*Having attended Positive Steps sessions in the DTU at the Hospice it is evident that is an ideal location for a day care centre for people living with dementia. The staff and volunteers are ideally suited to caring for people living with dementia – they have the training, empathy and warmth and seem to be able to manage different presentations of the disease well.*

*They take the time to get to know the attendees to build trust and everyone is treated with dignity and respect. On many occasions I have heard people say they don't want to go home at the end of a session and ask when they can come again – no better recommendation.*

*Caring for someone living with dementia 24/7 is extremely difficult and relentless. Many carers have little or no support and are in danger of putting their own health at risk. To know that loved ones are being cared for, stimulated and kept safe for a few hours will help carers recharge their batteries and have some respite to help them continue in their role caring for someone they love."*

## The Need for funding

2020 has seen an unprecedented pressure on hospice budgets following the Covid-19 pandemic. Retail shops had to close, fundraising events postponed or cancelled altogether which resulted in an average £80,000 per month loss of income. The hospice was proud to remain functional during these times, caring for some of the most vulnerable people in our community, but it has come at a cost.

The re-forecasted budgets, post Covid-19, anticipate a deficit of £470,000. Any funding the trustees are able to offer towards this essential service will be of immense value and truly appreciated. Every penny will be used to care for vulnerable people in the community and support them to continue to live independently for as long as possible.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this application.