

DEMENTIA CONCERN NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2015 VOLUME 8

ORGANISATIONAL UPDATE

Fun Days at Weekend Centres



Dementia Concern provide weekend day care at Elm Lodge in Greenford and Sycamore Lodge in Acton.

Once a year we like to get everyone from the two centres together so that clients and staff can meet new people. The party was planned for the 5th and 6th of September 2015. This year's theme was the 40s, 50s and 60s. Clients and staff got into the swing of it by dressing in the era of their choice. Some of our carers also came along to enjoy the party.

There was a live entertainer - Mike Marandi - who provided music from all eras; his great voice and energy levels soon had everyone joining in.

There was lots of singing and we were all amazed at the quality of the dancing. The clients enjoyed mixing with new people and the chance to have a knees up. The cocktail bar (non-alcoholic) and buffet food were a great hit!

For those who preferred something less energetic, we had a cinema corner where we played a selection of the great Laurel and Hardy short films.

The feedback from clients and carers was that it was brilliant and everyone was asking about the next one.

CHARITY SHOP RE-LAUNCH

Following recent refurbishments our shop, located at 432 Greenford Road, Greenford, will be re-launched on **Saturday 5 December between 11:00 and 12:30**.

We are delighted that the Mayor of Ealing, Cllr Harbhajan Kaur Dheer, will be cutting the ribbon and we will also be joined by local MP, Stephen Pound. Hope to see you there!

DIARY OF ON-GOING EVENTS

DEMENTIA CAFÉ 2015

Tuesday 17th November

At the Liz Cantell Room, Ealing Town Hall
7.00 pm to 9.00 pm

CARERS' INFORMATION EVENINGS 2015

7.00 pm - 9.00 pm

Wednesday 25th November at Sycamore Lodge
(Nutrition)

To reserve your place, please contact Joy at
Dementia Concern on 020 8568 4448

TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED FOR BOTH THE ABOVE EVENTS.

Please let Joy know at least two days in advance.

WEEKDAY INFORMATION SESSIONS

For anyone with an interest in dementia

William Hobbayne Centre
St. Dunstan's Road, Hanwell W7 2HB

Fortnightly sessions from 1:30 - 3:30

Next dates are:

Thursday 12th November

Thursday 26th November

FORMER CARERS' GROUP

William Hobbayne Centre (as above)

All meetings are from 10.30 – 12.30
on the third Thursday of each month

CARERS' VOICE

Services for people with dementia and their carers in the London Borough of Ealing

This is a difficult time with regard to services for people with dementia and their carers in the London Borough of Ealing. Over the last few years there has been a large increase in the number of people diagnosed with dementia but support and services have not yet caught up with the need.

The Social Services-run day centres at Elm Lodge and Sycamore Lodge shut down in March this year after closing their waiting lists in August of last year. A number of people have moved to the Michael Flanders Centre but at present no new places are available.

The day centre run by Regenerate-RISE Ealing for older isolated people will be reducing to one day per week from December.

Home care services are also under pressure. There are 46 providers in the London Borough of Ealing and it is inevitable that there will be a high turnover of businesses and that not all will have the highest levels of knowledge of dementia - although we know that training is provided.

Last year carers' respite funding ran out in October except for urgent cases and the position is uncertain for this year.

Dementia Concern services are also under pressure. There are waiting lists for all our main services including our Assessments, Call & Care, Weekend Day Care and the Community Support Service. We estimate that we are at least £300,000 short of the funding needed to provide what is required.

Things are very difficult at this time. However, you can be assured that all the staff at Dementia Concern are working hard together with other organisations and services and through the Ealing Dementia Programme Board to try to come up with some answers to improve the situation.

NEW CHARGES FOR SERVICES?

Our September 2014 newsletter gave an overview of the new Care Act. The key points were:

- Entitlement to assessment and support for people with care and support needs, including carers with such needs
- The provision of independent advocates to represent users and carers
- The further integration of health and social care services

The review of how the Borough would fund the extended services identified in the Act led to a proposal of **new charging structures** for social care services. Social Care, as we know all too well, is not free and the Borough has the right to charge for certain services following a financial assessment. In order to arrive at the fairest charging policy, the Borough will be launching a Consultation process in November 2015. The public will need to respond by 13th December and the whole process will be finalised by March.

The cost of support services and the way the charges are assessed are of paramount importance to Dementia Concern members and readers of our Newsletter. We therefore provide a summary of the proposals below.

What is the Borough consulting on?

- Charges for services provided to **Carers**
- Changes to charges for **respite care**
- Changes to services provided by the Council's **Careline and Telecare**

Who is consulted?

- Carers** known to the Council
- Adults** currently receiving a **care package** from the Council
- Existing **Telecare** users

How is the consultation carried out?

The Council is using a paper and on-line questionnaire, as well as inviting the views of the general public. User and Carer forums, such as the Older People's Forum, will be contacted directly. Some of you may have already received the questionnaires and, hopefully, responded to the questions asked. If not, please do so!

Proposals for new charges for services. Attention carers and users!

Question: Who will be affected by the changes?

Answer: Carers, adults who use respite care, Telecare and Care-line

Following the introduction of the Care Act, Local Authorities have a duty to assess and offer support to carers. Such services have previously been free. The Council now, however, proposes to start charging for these services. Carer organisations have strongly opposed this change arguing that carers save the public purse millions of pounds. Money that the nation would otherwise have to pay for nursing and residential care to name but two costly alternatives.

As part of the consultation process carers and Carer Organisations will be asked the following questions.

- Should services to carers continue to be free?
- Should they be means tested, i.e. free to carers with assets below the current threshold of £23,500?
- Should the charges be based on the same 'full' financial assessment as the one used for users/clients?

There is no information yet about the responses to the above questions. Our straw poll showed strong support for services to carers remaining free.

The proposals for new charges for **respite care** indicate that those on a low income will not have to pay for future respite care, while those who already contribute to their care above the respite care cap of £80.45 or the higher amount of £126.30 for people 60 and older, will no longer benefit from this cap. The actual fee charged will depend on the individual circumstances and ability to pay.

Our recent Carer Survey asked if carers would like to be more involved in the community. Despite caring being a 24/7 job becoming more involved in the community, particularly in groups and forum representing dementia care, now seems more important than ever.

Dementia Concern will be completing an on-line organisational response to the consultation. If you would like to respond and have not received any information, please contact us and we will ensure this is sent to you. We are also available to provide support in completing your response.

URGENT AND OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Dementia Concern for advice & information from your named Dementia Adviser (9:00 - 5:00 Monday to Friday)	(020) 8568 4448
In an emergency	999
NHS urgent medical help and advice (non life-threatening)	111
GP weekend opening	111
Pharmacy	111
Ealing Social Services (Office hours) Ealing Social Services (Out-of-hours Emergency Duty Team)	(020) 8825 5000 (020) 8825 8000

Donations in Memory

We have received donations in memory of the following people from their families and friends



Bob Daniels
Eddie Emmamooden
Ellen Heduan
Betty Lewis
Balgwen Myers
Kausila Prashad
Costas Sarva
Guillaume Voets



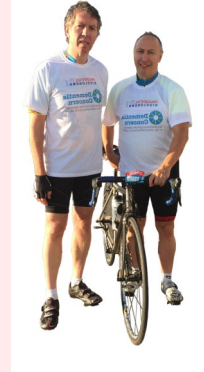
The family of the late Balgwen Myers describe her as 'a kind, loving and generous person, missed by her family and friends.'

CHARITY SHOP:

If you have goods to be collected for our charity shop, please ring Doreen on 8575 3373 and she will arrange collection.

BIKE RIDE

Three people completed the 100 mile Prudential Bike Ride London on 2nd August - Phil Skinner, Nigel Presky and David Abrahams.



They raised the fantastic sum of £1,044 for Dementia Concern. Our thanks go to them for all their efforts.

Sainsbury's Charity of the Year

Over the next few months Dementia Concern will be holding a number of collections outside the Sainsbury's store in West Ealing.

If you, or a relative, are willing to help, whether on one or more occasions, please contact the office for details of dates and times.

Dementia Concern is an independent charity which has been helping people with dementia and their carers in the London Borough of Ealing since 1982.

We provide assessment, advice, information, customer representation, support and monitoring, home respite care, day care at weekends,

dementia cafés, carers' information evenings and services at the Hobbayne Centre.

You can **support our work** in the following ways:

- ◆ By becoming a member for £10 per year
- ◆ By making a donation
- ◆ By remembering us in your Will



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Supporting our Organisation:



Ealing
Clinical Commissioning Group

