



January 2025



**Sandwell Community
Dementia Service**

SCDS News



Who we are:

SCDS NEWS is the newsletter of the Sandwell Community Dementia Service. We provide free advice, information and support for people worried about their memory and for those with a dementia diagnosis in Sandwell.

The service is a partnership with eight local voluntary sector organisations. We work together to provide support all the way along the dementia pathway, provide training, and awareness raising sessions, as well as helping to facilitate Dementia Friendly Communities in Sandwell.

SCDS provide support all the way along the dementia pathway for people with dementia, carers and family members

 **01902 826 655**

 **murrayhall.co.uk/SCDS**

Have a story or an idea for the newsletter?

We'd love to hear it!

**Email us on
bcicb.dementiasupport@nhs.net.**

Dementia Awareness and Information Event at Lets Chat Hub at West Bromwich Bus Station

On Monday 30th October SCDS Service Manager, Helen Kennedy, attended the Let's Chat Hub at West Bromwich Bus Station for a Dementia Awareness and Information Event with The Alzheimer's Society's Local Services Manager, Lee Allen.

Several people came and spoke of their memory concerns and were re-assured by Lee, who spoke about issues around memory loss and provided them with a checklist to complete and take to their GP. He advised their GP would then be able to make the decision about their memory concerns and if they would need referring for further investigation.



Another member of the public came and asked about their likelihood of getting dementia as they had family members who had had dementia. Lee spoke to them around their concerns and gave reassurance.

If you would like to arrange for us to attend a venue in any of the Sandwell towns and deliver a Dementia Friends or Dementia Awareness and Information Session please contact us on:
01902 826 655

Dementia Awareness Event at Sandwell College



WE SUPPORT!



**WE OFFER PRACTICAL
ADVICE**



**WE HELP PLAN
FOR THE FUTURE!**



WE LISTEN!



WE RAISE AWARENESS!



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

Dementia Awareness and Dementia Friends sessions 2025

If you would like to be involved in the planning of an event with SCDS, or are interested in holding a Dementia Awareness/Friends session please contact -

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On Monday 21st October SCDS were invited to Sandwell College to attend their Dementia Awareness Event. Alongside SCDS Service Manager Helen Kennedy were Dementia Navigator Jodie Cookson, Dementia Advisor Tara Cresswell, and Lee Allen, Local Services Manager from the Alzheimer's Society. The team held a stand in the atrium area promoting and displaying information around dementia and memory loss.

Our lifelike pets, Martha the Kitten and Murray the puppy, were a big attraction, particularly when the students saw them breathing. We explained the purpose of the pets was to bring comfort to someone living with dementia, as they could sit stroking and look after their lifelike pet if they were no longer able to care for a real-life pet. They were also keen to handle the fiddle blankets and were interested to learn how they benefited those living with dementia through sensory stimulation.

An information session was delivered to the health and social care students telling them about the services offered by SCDS, what was involved in the roles of a Dementia Navigator and Dementia Advisor, and various aspects around dementia and memory loss. This included the most common types of dementia, supporting and caring for someone with dementia, and appropriate language to use when talking about dementia and people living with dementia.

Prior to the awareness day, the students had worked in groups and produced information booklets on different types of dementia, and the team were asked for their feedback on the booklets and to choose an overall winner. The quality was so high, it was a very difficult decision to choose an overall winner. It was a very uplifting day to see the interest from the students regarding dementia and memory loss and the work they had put into their information booklets. The students were also raising money, which they were planning to donate to support those living with dementia.





Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to find out more about how you could volunteer with us to help provide dementia support, please contact Murray Hall Community Trust on:

Telephone: 01902 826 655

Email: info@murrayhall.co.uk.

DiADeM Project - Supporting people with undiagnosed dementia living in care homes

Sandwell Community Dementia Service is working with partner organisation, Dementia Pathfinders, and the Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, on an initiative to support residents in care homes in Sandwell who have advanced dementia that is undiagnosed.

The project involves using a validated tool called DiADeM (Diagnosing Advanced Dementia Mandate) which entails information gathering from family members and care home staff to build a picture of the person's cognitive capability, emotional wellbeing and ability to carry out activities of daily living such as washing and dressing, eating and drinking, going to the toilet.

Our Dementia Navigators contribute to the DiADeM pathway, by gathering information from care home staff and families, dementia screening using 6CIT and liaising with GPs, primary care teams, and other health and care providers to ensure that a resident's health needs are met holistically.

Dr Jill Rasmussen, an independent GP practitioner specialising in dementia, mental health and learning disability, has been engaged by Dementia Pathfinders to guide partners in the use of DiADeM and work collaboratively with GPs to diagnose people referred for this service.

Webinars and seminars are being offered to improve dementia knowledge and skills within primary care and equip GPs with the confidence to diagnose people with a clinical presentation of advanced dementia living in care homes, thus avoiding the need to refer to the Memory Assessment Service.

Once diagnosed, people with dementia living in care homes and their families are supported by SCDS Dementia Advisers. To make a referral to this service, contact the single point of access

-Barbara Stephens

For more information, contact the project lead, Barbara Stephens on **07774 935905** or email:

Barbara.stephens@dementiopathfinders.org.



**Sandwell Community
Dementia Service**

A collaborative partnership supporting people
and families living with dementia

How do I make a referral?

To make a referral you can contact the Single Point of Access by telephone or email. New referrals are triaged by our Dementia Navigators and then supported by our Dementia Navigators and Dementia Advisors working together.

Contact us

Call us:
01902 826 655

Email Us:
bcicb.dementiasupport@nhs.net

MAKING A REFERRAL TO SCDS



Who can access the service?

Sandwell Community Dementia Service is free to access for people living in Sandwell, or who are registered with a Sandwell GP practice and are: Diagnosed with Dementia or people who are seeking a diagnosis.

Referring people to SCDS promises a range of benefits for both caregivers and people affected by dementia. Our service offers comprehensive support, offering tailored interventions that help ensure people live well with dementia. With a multidisciplinary team of support workers, including Dementia Navigators and Advisors, we ensure a holistic approach to address the complex needs of individuals living with dementia and their carers. By engaging with our service, SCDS professionals can seamlessly integrate their clients into a supportive community, fostering a continuum of care that significantly contributes to improved client outcomes and overall wellbeing.