**Dementia Friendly GP practices**

GP practices can play a vital role in providing initial information, advice, signposting and offering ongoing support to a person with dementia. A person’s experience and the support they are offered could have an impact on how they come to terms with their diagnosis, plan and prepare for the future. There is an enormous amount of commitment, time and hard work happening within GPs across Sheffield to ensure their patients affected by dementia are being supported in the best way, and we want to celebrate this. This care and support will make a difference to a person’s quality of life, wellbeing and health.

**How to be more dementia friendly?**   
Small changes can have a big impact and often do not require significant time or financial resource. Here are some ideas for where to start…

1. **Connect patients to their local dementia link worker**  
   Across the City there are People Keeping Well (PKW) partnership organisations. Every PKW has a dementia link worker that supports people in their local area with dementia. They help people to access group and activities, refer to other services, offer ongoing support and a point of contact. Refer your patient by completing a DAS referral form.
2. **Arranging an awareness session for all staff**
3. **Add dementia friendly signage within your building**
4. **Look at the physical environment** **& complete a dementia-friendly checklist**To make it even easier for you SDAA can come and complete this for you & make recommendations.
5. **Remind patients of appointments via text or phone call, this will reduce missed and repeat appointments**
6. **Become a member of Sheffield Dementia Action Alliance though the short application form here (**[**https://www.ageuk.org.uk/sheffield/our-services/sdaa/membership/become-a-member/sdaa-application-form/**](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/sheffield/our-services/sdaa/membership/become-a-member/sdaa-application-form/)**)**As a member of SDAA we will work with you to make your practice more inclusive of people affected by dementia. We can send you resources, help your staff access workshops and give information and advice.
7. **Invite DAS to your next team meeting**  
   We would like to introduce ourselves and update you on what’s happening across Sheffield, how we can support you as a practice, your team, and your patients with dementia. We know your team are very busy so can join for as much or as little of your team meeting.
8. **Share Dementia Advice Sheffield contact details with colleagues**

Your team can contact DAS with any non-medical enquiry relating to a patient, carer or even colleague. For example, you might want to know where to find details of a dementia-friendly group, have questions about respite options or want advice around conducting telephone appointments with someone with dementia.

As a Sheffield GP, you will receive an information pack in early 2022, with a reminder of the support available to you from **The Dementia Advice Sheffield service** **and Sheffield Dementia Action Alliance.** Both services work alongside GPs to give support, guidance and information to best support their patients. These services are here for all Sheffield GPs to access will have benefits not just for your patients with dementia but for your practice.

The Dementia Advice Sheffield has two elements.   
1) Thorough a referral from a professional DAS **connects people with dementia to their local People Keeping Well Partner**. Their named dementia link worker will contact the person within 2 weeks and give them details of groups, services and advice of interest e.g. lunch clubs or a carers centre referral. Their link worker will be a point of contact. If the person does not need any support at the time, they will be in touch for 6-mothly welfare calls. Please email [dementiaadvice@ageuksheffield.org.uk](mailto:dementiaadvice@ageuksheffield.org.uk) if you require copies of the referral form and patient leaflet.   
2) DAS provides **information, advice and training service for professionals** working with people with dementia. Any professional, such as a GP, nurse, and receptionist can contact DAS for non-clinical guidance.

3) Sheffield Dementia Action Alliance is working to establish Sheffield as a dementia friendly City, and works alongside organisations across Sheffield. SDAA can **support your practice to become dementia friendly**. By becoming a member of SDAA GP practices can be supported to access training, advice and support.