

February 2017

NEWSLETTER



All the latest news from Age UK Cheshire East

Help us shape a better future for older people

Call out for help to ensure we remain in touch on older people's issues

Age UK Cheshire East is currently drawing up its plans for the year ahead and wants to hear from people who have an energy and interest in helping us design more effective services for older people, as well as to act as a sounding board for us to try out new ideas or to inform about issues of general interest.



The idea is to identify a group of people across the area who we can contact, perhaps up to as much as four times per year, to seek views on a wide variety of issues which are impacting on older people. The idea being that we start a conversation with local people about the issues that matter most to you in your local area and for you to comment on how we deliver our services as well as activities and services that you think would be valued by older people.

As a charity with the interests of older people at our heart, we are also interested to hear about concerns you may have about how older people are viewed in the wider community, about the facilities they have at their disposal, or about anything else that impacts, both positively and negatively on older people. We also want to hear about what it is like to be an older person in Cheshire East and the things that matter most to you to enable you to lead a healthy and fulfilling life. We may also want to survey you on issues impacting on older people or inform you of important new policy proposals to gain your views and comments so that we can feed back these concerns to the key decision makers, both locally and nationally.



If you are interested in helping us design the way forward, and joining this conversation, have an interest in older person issues, or are just generally interested in making a difference, then please get in touch. You can call us on 01625 612958 to express an interest or email to enquiries@ageukcheshireeast.org

New Report warns Social Care near to collapse

Research by Age UK says social care system in England living on 'borrowed time'

Age UK has published its report **[“The Health and Care of Older People in England 2017”](#)** highlighting the immense challenges facing older people who need care, the numbers of whom increase every day, and the impact of the failure to provide it on their health and wellbeing, as well as the NHS.




Worryingly, the report suggests that however tough things are now they threaten to get a lot worse over the next few years for a number of reasons which the report details. The report also examines the Government's strategy for keeping the social care system from totally falling apart and concludes that it is not up to the job and is failing. Unless something changes the Charity says there is a genuine risk of social care completely collapsing in the worst affected areas this year or next. Evidence is showing that in some areas already, vulnerable older people are having to manage alone for many hours at a time due to the lack of local provision.

The Charity is calling on Government to recognise the imminent danger which social care is now in and commit to an urgent injection of funds in the Spring Budget. It also calls on the Government to lead a process for developing a long term solution to the care crisis that incorporates the views of older and disabled people and all parts of the health and care sector, and that engages the public in the important question of how we pay for a decent care system we can all rely on when we need it.

Some key findings of the report are as follows:-

- There are now 1.2 million older people in England who don't receive the care support they need with essential daily living activities
- By 2020/21, public spending on social care would need to increase by a minimum of £1.65 billion to £9.99 billion in order to manage the impact of future demographic pressures
- The proportion of people providing unpaid care for family and friends continues to rise to 17.8% (in 2015), as well as caring for greater levels of intensity than in the past and meeting increasingly complex needs
- There are now over 2 million carers aged over 65, 417,000 of whom are aged over 80;
- Increasing numbers of Councils are reporting home care providers ceasing trading, or handing council care contracts back
- Between 2010 and 2016, the number of days of delay in being discharged from hospital because of waits for home care increased by 182%, equal to 35,994 delayed days

Age UK is demanding an immediate Government response to the issue, as it is extremely concerned that the situation could threaten the health and even lives of older people. The charity is calling for an urgent injection of funds, coupled with the development of a longer term solution, informed by engagement with the public about what a decent care system should look like.

 **A copy of the report can be accessed on Age UK's website or by clicking on the following link**

<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/latest-news/borrowed-time-for-care/>



Fundraising campaign launched

Raising funds to help keep our sheds active

Following the successful launch of our new Macclesfield shed back in January, we have launched an ambitious new fundraising campaign asking people and businesses in the local community to get behind the Men in Sheds project.

Men in Sheds is a place for older men to benefit from company, advice, woodworking, a cup of tea and great banter. Activities include woodwork advice and support, painting, varnishing or relaxing in the company of other local men.

The charity runs two sheds – one in Congleton and one in Macclesfield. For many local men, the shed provides a safe space to escape the hassles of daily life for a few hours each week and is the answer to beating loneliness.

A minimum of £50,000 is needed to run 2 sheds in Cheshire East for a full year, this enables the charity to run over 500 sessions for local older men. **All** money raised stays local.



Bill with service users & volunteers at the shed in Congleton

Bill, the Co-Ordinator of our Congleton shed says “our shed provides a great opportunity for fellas to get together and chat whilst enjoying a bit of woodworking. Every session starts with a cup of tea and a catch up and then we get on with various projects, whatever the men feel like doing. But above all, we have a laugh and all go away feeling much better”



www

If you'd like to find out more about this project, or would like to help us raise some much needed funds to keep the sheds alive, please call 01625 660534 or visit www.ageukce.org

Are you a local business with some spare wood you no longer need? Would you like to donate it to one of our sheds? We can collect! Any reusable wood would be helpful, off cuts or even MDF. As long as the wood is not painted, we can find a use for it in one of our workshops. If you can help, give us a call on the number above!



'I love our Club'

One lady's experience with our Dementia Day Support Service

Jean was referred to our Dementia Day Support Service (DDSS) by the Council's Dementia Reablement Team. Her husband, with support from their daughter, had cared for Jean at home for 5 years with no assistance from outside agencies. Jean's husband became unwell and had to give up work. At the same time, Jean's needs were increasing. It became apparent extra support was required.

Dementia reablement suggested the DDSS to the family. This suggestion was met with reservations from Jean's husband and daughter. The family did not want anyone else caring for their wife and mother. With an invitation to the group to have a look round and to see what was on offer, the family visited. From the moment they walked in to the service, they knew they had found the safe and caring environment they did not think they needed. During their visit, a home visit was arranged for an assessment for Jean to attend on a regular basis.

The assessment was successful and Jean settled in the DDSS. She participated in all activities and cared for the other group members. Jean proved that you can live well with dementia. The family immediately felt the benefits of Jean's attendance and increased her days with us to twice a week. Jean loved our club and her husband was able to return to work knowing Jean was looked after and treated with dignity and respect at all times.



Sadly, after Christmas Jean became unwell which affected her dementia and her care needs. The family had no choice but to give notice on Jean's place with the DDSS. Jean's family have been supportive of the DDSS. The relationship and trust between DDSS and family has enabled us to support them in a time of change and difficulty, providing them with information on finding and choosing a care home.



Do you know of anyone who would benefit from this service? Further details of the DDSS are available on our website www.ageukce.org or by calling 01625 660527 or by email to ddss@ageukcheshireeast.org

About us...

We are a local charity, providing a wide range of services to older people in Cheshire East. All the funds we generate are spent on delivering services locally. Our aim is to improve the later life of the people of Cheshire East. The main focus of our work is:-



- Support for people living with dementia
- Tackling loneliness
- Free Information & Advice
- Lifestyle support
- Men in Sheds
- Help in the Home



01625 612958



enquiries@ageukcheshireeast.org



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