

STOCKTON - DEMENTIA FRIENDLY TOWN

1

The project aims to develop the borough of Stockton-on-Tees as a recognised dementia-friendly community.

What's happened so far?

Following consultation with people living with dementia and carers in Stockton-on-Tees the Dementia Friendly Stockton project has produced a number of resources to help local business and other organisations work towards the project's 'six steps to becoming more dementia friendly'. In November 2013 Stockton-on-Tees successfully registered with the national recognition process for dementia friendly communities.

Find out more... dfc@clevearc.com or visit dementiafriendlystockton.co.uk for resources.

BACK TO SCHOOL DAYS

2

The project aims to establish a range of community based wellbeing activities for people living with dementia and their carers centred on Bernard Gilpin Primary School in Houghton-le-Spring - one of 21 dementia friendly pioneer schools in the UK.

What's happened so far?

There are now weekly 'living with dementia' activities every Tuesday for staff, pupils and people living with dementia. These include: singing for the brain, a dementia café, an inter-generational choir and dance activities. Dementia awareness training for school staff is also well underway and the school is a busy building greater local links, contacts and networks to share their exciting work.

Find out more... andrew.bainbridge@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

SKELTON FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

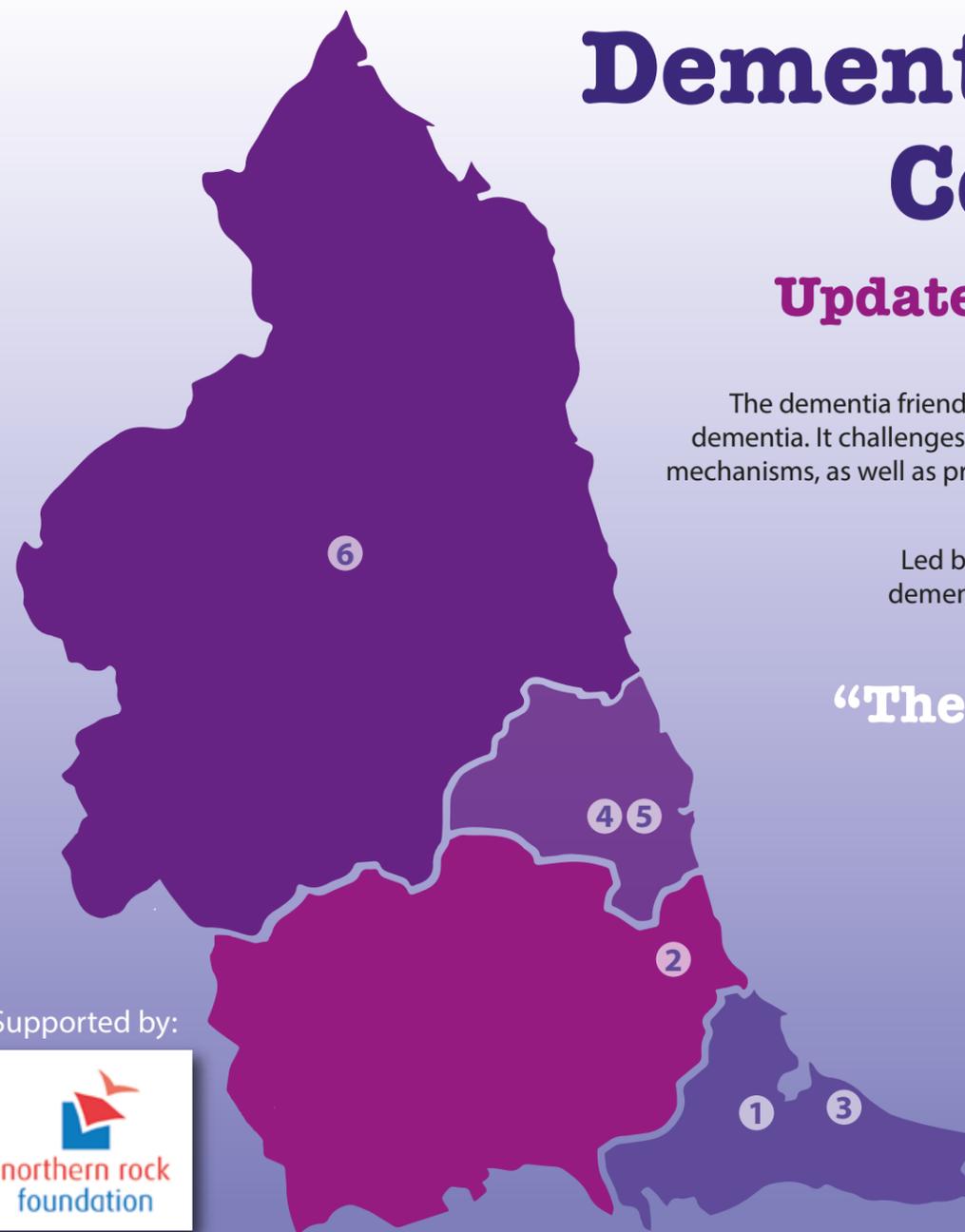
3

This project aims to make Skelton (a town of c7500 people in East Cleveland) the prototype for an active dementia friendly community in Redcar & Cleveland Council.

What's happened so far?

Research has taken place with people with dementia to find out how Skelton can be made more dementia friendly. There have been dementia awareness training sessions with local authority and local businesses. The library in Skelton has set up monthly reminiscence sessions for local people and the local secondary school is delivering a dementia awareness module to students.

Find out more... susan.renvoize@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk



Supported by:



Dementia Friendly Communities

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Update on projects in North East England

The dementia friendly communities (DFC) initiative aims to improve the quality of life of people living with dementia. It challenges entire towns and cities to raise awareness of the disease and build dementia support mechanisms, as well as promoting understanding and empathy amongst local people so that those living with dementia can play a more active and inclusive role in their local community.

Led by the North East Dementia Alliance and supported by the Northern Rock Foundation, dementia friendly communities projects are being supported and funded across the region.

“There are many new schemes getting off the ground and so much work being done in the name of dementia, and I do wonder if we are starting to lead the way.”

Ken Clasper,
North East resident diagnosed with Lewy Bodies Dementia

NEWCASTLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

4

The project aims to improve the level of dementia awareness within the Elders Council of Newcastle and to identify ways in which it can use its resources to work with partners to develop their understanding of what it is like to live with dementia and how they can respond in a supportive way.

What's happened so far and what's next?

The Elders Council has been working with local care homes and a community café to establish what they can do to help people with dementia. There has also been a tea party to engage with people with dementia as well as wider dementia discussions on The Elders Council's monthly community radio show.

Find out more... info@qualityoflife.org.uk

SPIRITUAL NEEDS AND DFCs

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This project, undertaken by Northumbria University, aims to involve local communities in meeting the spiritual needs of people with dementia across regional care settings.

What's happened so far?

Northumbria University held two events in the Spring and Autumn 2013 about DFC, spiritually and dementia. A number of speakers and workshops took place and from this a Dementia Friendly Communities Resources Guide was produced. This can be obtained from www.nr-foundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Dementia-Friendly-ResourceV6-3.pdf

Find out more... isabel.quinn@northumbria.ac.uk

BUS DRIVER AWARENESS

6

People with dementia can live well by maintaining the skills of independent living we all take for granted including being able to get out and about. This project aims develop training for bus drivers who deal with passengers and their carers with dementia so they can better respond to their needs.

What's happened so far?

A training module on recognising a person living with dementia, who drivers see on a regular basis, has now been developed, with training providers for Arriva, Go North East and Stagecoach committing to attending regional training sessions and rolling it out to their network of bus drivers stretching beyond Northumberland and into the North East.

Find out more... ann.brown@northumbria-healthcare.nhs.uk

Jack and Jill and the Red Postbox

On the 31st October 2013, Northumbria University welcomed home its critically-acclaimed play that explores the impact of dementia on everyday life.

The fictional Jack and Jill & the Red Postbox was conceived and written by Claire Webster Saaremets, Artistic Director of Skimstone Arts and inspired by research carried out in Northumberland by Drs Cathy Bailey and Catherine Gibb (Northumbria University) and Professor Charlotte Clarke (Edinburgh University). The story follows Jack and Jill and their daughter Lucy as their lives are turned upside down when Jill is diagnosed with dementia and they encounter considerable daily challenges.

This home performance was an important event for Northumbria University as it builds on its long-term ambition to achieve dementia friendly community status – which would be a first for a university in the North East of England.

Both the Alzheimer Society and the North East Dementia Action Alliance supported the event by providing information and support and taking part in post-performance discussions about how to create dementia friendly communities. The invited audience of 90+ people, including those living with dementia, carers, family members, health professionals and academics, took part in group discussions about dementia friendly communities. There were exchanges about lessons learned from the play including how to volunteer time, the lost ability to stop and take stock and the importance of letting people know – for example the GP, corner shop and post office.

Dr Cathy Bailey, Northumbria University, said: "There were lots of ideas about how to create and enable dementia friendly communities and how communities could recruit champions in shops, banks and pubs. There were also suggestions inspired by initiatives that were already in place, so lots of sharing of best practice."

Jack and Jill & the Red Postbox provided a powerful medium from which to think through the everyday practicalities of living with dementia; what is needed to create and sustain dementia friendly communities and what is needed to give all of us the tools to support others to have optimum quality of life.

The original research and premier performance of Jack and Jill was funded by NHS North of England Commissioning Support Unit. This performance was funded by Northumbria University's Health and Life Sciences (HLS) dementia working group and was supported by Northumbria University's Performing Arts departmental team.

To find out more about health at Northumbria University, visit www.northumbria.ac.uk/hces.

Useful DFC resources...

The Alzheimer's Society A guide for Customer facing staff

www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/news_article.php?newsID=1935

Dementia Friends training

www.dementiafriends.org.uk

Local Government Association – Developing dementia-friendly communities: Learning and guidance for local authorities

www.local.gov.uk/ageing-well/what-makes/-/journal_content/56/10180/3489659/ARTICLE

Innovations in Dementia – Dementia-Friendly Hampshire Toolkit and Dementia Capable Communities

www.innovationsindementia.org.uk/projects_communities.htm#communities

North East Dementia Alliance – Knowing the Foundations of Dementia Friendly Communities for the North East

www.phine.org.uk/uploads/doc/vid_16756_Dementia_Friendly_Communities_Report_Final.pdf

Joseph Rowntree Foundations – Creating a Dementia-Friendly York

www.jrf.org.uk/publications/creating-dementia-friendly-york

Housing LIN – At a Glance: A Checklist for Developing Dementia Friendly Communities

www.housinglin.org.uk/_library/Resources/Housing/Support_materials/Viewpoints/Viewpoint25_AtAGlance.pdf



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Dementia Friendly Communities UPDATE

SPRING 2014

Stockton & Corbridge on the road to becoming Dementia Friendly Communities

Both Stockton-on-Tees and Corbridge have successfully registered with the national recognition process for dementia friendly communities. The process was launched by the Alzheimer's Society to publicly identify communities that are working to become more dementia-friendly and to ensure communities are working towards common criteria.

As a result of registering with the national recognition process Stockton-on-Tees and Corbridge will be issuing the 'working to become dementia friendly' symbol to organisations and businesses in their communities that wish to be part of the dementia friendly communities' initiative and have stated what their actions will be to towards becoming more dementia friendly.

About the DFC recognition and accreditation process:

Registering with the recognition process means that organisations and communities are working towards becoming dementia friendly. It also means that they agree to meet certain conditions, which include:

- Committing to common overarching values and working towards named dementia friendly standards.
- Self-assessing progress towards the standards on an annual basis and providing a six-monthly update.
- Providing information on progress on a local webpage or site.

You can find out more about the accreditation process at www.alzheimers.org.uk



Stockton celebrate!

For further information about the Dementia Friendly Stockton project please visit www.dementiafriendlystockton.co.uk For further information about the work in Corbridge please contact amy.syron-mallenby@alzheimers.org.uk