

West Kent PPG Chairs Bulletin – 27.5.15

Social Care for the Older Person

There is an opportunity for older people of the Sevenoaks and Maidstone areas to help Kent County Council understand better the needs of the older generation and help them inform the future direction of social care.

The Council is asking for any older adult who may be starting to feel that they themselves, or a family member, may be in need of support as they grow older to maintain their independence to come along and give their views.

Could PPGs please make this known to their patient population and include any links that they may have to display the poster.



Sevenoaks.Otford.p
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Maidstone.Allington.
pdf

West Kent: diagnosis is key to unlocking dementia support

Doctors in west Kent are appealing to the friends and families of older people to be dementia aware so they can help their loved ones get an early diagnosis. As the population ages, dementia is becoming more common. It is estimated that 6,364 people in west Kent have the condition. The latest data, from March 2015, show 3,547 have been diagnosed.

NHS West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has worked with other NHS organisations in Kent and Kent County Council to produce a magazine, Dementia Focus, to help people with dementia and their family carers find out about care and support available locally. Look out for a copy at your GP surgery, pharmacist, and some retail outlets, including supermarkets.

The CCG is also encouraging families and close friends of people showing early signs, such as memory loss, confusion, repetition and difficulty with everyday tasks such as handling money, to urge their loved one to see their GP.

Initiatives in the NHS West Kent CCG area to raise awareness, improve diagnosis rates and provide better support to people with dementia and their carers, include:

- A crisis service to support people with dementia to remain in their homes and avoid a hospital admission if possible
- work with partners in the voluntary sector to make communities more dementia-friendly
- the development of a 'dementia roadmap', a website, aimed primarily at GPs, which contains local information on services for people with dementia and their carers
- Work to diagnose people living in nursing or care homes whose symptoms may have been missed

Useful contacts and further information:

- 24-hour freephone support line for people with dementia and their carers in Kent and Medway: 0800 500 3014.
- Alzheimer's Society: www.alzheimers.org.uk and national helpline 0300 222 1122 (usually open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday and 10am to 4pm on Saturday).
- Alzheimer's Society Maidstone: 01622 747181, maidstone@alzheimers.org.uk
- Alzheimer's Society Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, and West Malling: 01892 559410 kentandmedway@alzheimers.org.uk
- Maidstone and Malling Carers Project, 01622 685276, carers@vam-online.org.uk
- Carers First (Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Cranbrook) 0300 303 1555, info@carersfirst.org.uk
- Crossroads Care West Kent: 0845 900 3735, www.carerskm.org
- www.dementiafriendlykent.org.uk
- www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health
- NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/dementia
- Look out for more information on the CCG's website, www.westkentccg.nhs.uk and Twitter feed, @NHSWestKentCCG

End

We all know that the future for social care is changing .
In Kent our vision is for people to:

‘Have a life, not just a service’

As a first step, we are working with libraries across Kent to hold
a number of older persons:

Tea and Talk events

We are inviting local people to come and join us for a cuppa and a chat,
to help us understand what’s important to them and how we may best
help people maintain their independence and wellbeing
as they grow older.

Places are limited so please book your place in advance

Please contact : Grant Thompson 03000 415520

Please be aware that this will be a general discussion and case managers
will not be present to discuss individual cases.

Allington Library

Thur 4th June 2015

10 - 12 noon

Adult Community Support
Strategic Commissioning
Social Care Health and Wellbeing



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