

October 2024



**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 Navigators working with local GP

Dementia Navigator, Sandra Graham has been working alongside the GPs at Tame Valley Medical Centre in Wednesbury, to assist with their patients' annual dementia reviews within the surgery. During the review, GPs carry out a medication review, checked blood pressure and weight and Sandra carried out 'Living Well' check.



The review discovered that not all patients were supported by the Sandwell Community Dementia Service, so she was able to refer them into the service to ensure they have access to support in the community. If the person with dementia, or their loved one, indicated that they needed help during the review; either with practical or emotional support, Sandra was able to arrange a home visit to carry out a needs assessment, to ensure their questions were answered, problems were solved and needs were met.

-Sandra Graham



Dementia Awareness and Dementia Friends sessions

 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 2024

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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One element of the Sandwell Dementia Community Service is raising awareness.

Utilising the Alzheimer's Society dementia friends initiative, sessions have been held. A number of sessions have been held within 2 senior schools with Sandwell (St Michaels in Rowley Regis and Holly Lodge in Smethwick).

Attending School Assemblies, Health and Social Care lessons and Student Voice Events. The initiative sparked great discussion amongst the pupils even leading to St Michaels inviting some of the parents along to be involved. The 2 schools have allowed us to review our content as well providing us valuable feedback in shaping the awareness sessions for future events at other schools within the borough.

Similar sessions have also been delivered at Day Centres, Housing Support, Leisure Centres, Community Groups, GP Surgeries and Patient Participation Groups.

If you are interested in hearing about dementia or the Sandwell Dementia Community Support Service then please do get in touch.

-Lee Allen





Sandra Graham, presenting Kieun Kwon and Sarah Dobsworth from Runwood Homes.

Interesting report -

Brought together by CommonAge, the Commonwealth Association for the Ageing, [Dementia in the Commonwealth](#) has recently been published.

It is believed to be the first report on dementia focussing on Commonwealth countries.

The report:

- explores the state of dementia care and support
- highlights disparities and challenges
- showcases best practices
- highlights the need for urgent action to improve the lives of those affected by dementia

The report involved research and collaboration with experts, people living with dementia, healthcare providers, and carers. It also showcases successful models of care across the Commonwealth as templates for improvement.

<https://www.commage.org/new-report-sheds-light-on-dementia-in-the-commonwealth/>

Sandwell Spotlights Innovative Dementia Care at National Awards

We are delighted that our Dementia Navigator, Sandra Graham, had the honour of presenting the 'Outstanding Approach to Supporting People Living with Dementia Using Creativity and the Arts' award at the National Dementia Care Awards. This event not only highlighted the exceptional work being done in our area but also showcased the innovative approaches being taken in dementia care across the nation.

Sandra presented the award to Kieun Kwon and Sarah Dobsworth from Runwood Homes. This celebrates those who go above and beyond in using creative methods to enhance the lives of people living with dementia.

"It was an honour to present this award, as a representative of one of the sponsors, Dementia Pathfinders. I've seen first-hand how arts and creativity can transform the lives of those living with dementia. This award not only celebrates innovative caregivers but also inspires us all to think outside the box in supporting our community. It reinforces that dementia care is not just about clinical support, but about enriching lives and fostering connections through creative engagement." – Sandra Graham

Murray Hall Community Trust, in partnership with Murray Hall Community Trust, Agewell, BUDS, St Albans Community Association, Dementia Pathfinders, West Bromwich African Caribbean Resource Centre, Age UK and Alzheimer's Society are jointly delivering the Sandwell Community Dementia Service as part of the Dementia Pathway. The service is funded by Sandwell Council and NHS to support people from initial concerns about memory loss. Dementia Navigators will support people through the diagnosis stage and Dementia Advisors will provide various support to enable people to live well with memory loss.

In addition, our own Sandwell Community Dementia Service is at the forefront of providing comprehensive support for those affected by dementia in our area. We offer advice, information, and support to people concerned about their memory and those with a dementia diagnosis in Sandwell.

For more information about Sandwell Community Dementia Service and how we're making a difference in our community, visit our website at <https://www.murrayhall.co.uk/scds>.

SCDS Service Improvement

In July 2024, SCDS representatives met with Dementia Pathfinders and Sandwell Memory Assessment Service to review the SCDS referral form. The purpose of this was to ensure SCDS are receiving all information to complete and initial assessment of the clients needs. We will regularly review for effectiveness of this to ensure it is fit for purpose.

Copies of the updated SCDS referral form are available on our website.



Sandwell Community Dementia Service

A collaborative partnership supporting people and families living with dementia

MAKING A REFERRAL TO SCDS



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

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.