



Media Release

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Orkney Islands get dementia friendly boost

Age Scotland Orkney has been awarded £225,000 from the Life Changes Trust and £16,000 from Dementia Friendly Orkney to improve the quality of life for people living with dementia their carers and families living on the islands.

The funding will be used to provide a range of services and social activities which promote health and well-being, resilience, access to support and inclusion. This will include a Dementia Hub which will be a one stop shop where people living with dementia can go for information and advice.

In Orkney, there is a low diagnostic rate for dementia. With the support of volunteers, this three year project will provide a comprehensive range of support services, including:

- pre- and post-diagnosis advice, including drop-in sessions
- training sessions for people living with dementia, and carers
- information for businesses and other community service providers
- supporting existing social activities, and providing new ones
- befriending, peer support, advocacy, a monthly news letter

The project also looks to address the low diagnosis rate for dementia in Orkney.

People living with dementia and carers will be actively involved in helping shape the dementia friendly community.

The funding is part of a second phase of Dementia Friendly Communities investment from Scottish charity, the Life Changes Trust. The Trust invested £3 million in 14 dementia friendly communities in 2015, the success of which has led to a further investment of £2 million.

Dementia Friendly Communities are places where people affected by dementia, including carers and family members, are included and supported to do the things that matter to them. They also help empower those whose lives are affected by dementia so that they remain integrated in society, live as independently as possible and participate actively in decisions that affect their lives.

Some dementia friendly communities are geographical communities, relating to a specific location like those already established in West Dunbartonshire or Kirriemuir. Others are communities of interest that bring people together because they are interested in similar activities, for example, sport, art, walking outdoors or dance.

Dementia Orkney has been developed by Age Scotland Orkney, NHS Orkney and Dementia Friendly Orkney.

Gillian Skuse, Managing Director of Age Scotland Orkney said: "This is a major step forward and I am thrilled that this innovative project will take place. We have worked in partnership with Dementia Friendly Orkney and Gillian Coghill, NHS Orkney's Dementia Nurse Specialist to make this happen."

Anna Buchanan, Director of the Life Changes Trust dementia programme said, "By funding a diverse range of dementia friendly communities throughout Scotland, we are developing a deeper understanding of how to meet the needs of people with dementia and their families. A diagnosis of dementia can lead to social exclusion and isolation, but dementia friendly communities can help prevent this by keeping people included and supported.

“It is wonderful to welcome a new and vibrant initiative in Orkney where there is already a well-established, solid sense of community. This work will make a huge difference to people’s lives and will raise awareness about dementia. We look forward to learning a lot from this project.”

In Scotland:

- It is estimated that around 90,000 people have dementia
- The number of people with dementia in Scotland is increasing, because the population is getting older. Based on current dementia prevalence rates, the number of people with dementia in Scotland is projected to double by 2038*.
- Dementia costs the country more than cancer, heart disease and stroke put together.

The Life Changes Trust was established by the Big Lottery Fund in April 2013 with a ten year endowment of £50 million to support transformational improvements in the quality of life, well-being, empowerment and inclusion of two groups: people affected by dementia and young people with experience of being in care.

ENDS

For further information and for press enquiries contact the Life Changes Trust: Deborah Cowan on 0141 212 9606.

NOTES TO EDITORS

For more information on Life Change Trust funding for Dementia Friendly Communities, see the Trust website:

<http://www.lifechangestrust.org.uk/projects/dementia-friendly-communities>

*Dementia Words - Our work with people with dementia has shown that the phrase “Dementia sufferers”, or using the word suffering to describe dementia has a strongly negative view from people with the condition. We would request that you avoid using the phrase in headlines or in any article you publish to combat the negative way that people with dementia feel the condition is described.

The Life Changes Trust was established by the Big Lottery Fund in April 2013 with a ten year endowment of £50 million to support transformational improvements in the quality of life, well-being, empowerment and inclusion of people affected by dementia and young people with experience of being in care.

Dementia Friendly Communities include, empower and support people affected by dementia and their carers in every aspect of life, from accessing services to using public transport. They can be geographical communities or communities of interest. They also help empower those whose lives are affected by dementia so that they can remain integrated in society, live as independently as possible and participate actively in decisions that affect their day-to-day lives.

Previously Age Concern Orkney, Age Scotland Orkney now work with sister charity Age Scotland to ensure that everyone can love later life. The aims of the charity are to help and support older people who live in their own homes, to retain dignity, choice and independence and to enjoy a good quality of life. They also work with other groups, both statutory and voluntary, national and local, on issues which will have an impact, in the longer term, on the lives of all older people.