



PRESS RELEASE

3rd April 2019

Three day dementia event comes to Orkney

A programme of events entitled 'Community and Dementia: Creating Better Lives' is coming to Orkney on the 7th 8th and 9th of May to find out what people living with dementia and their carers say really matters to them.

The three days will include storytelling sessions, screen memories sessions, social events including an evening of music and dance, and finishing with a full 'Creating Better Lives' conference.

All three days are planned, designed and developed in partnership with local stakeholders in Orkney, highlighting the importance of taking a local approach to supporting people affected by dementia within a national policy context

The conference will provide an opportunity for local organisations and statutory sector workers to sit side by side with people who have a diagnosis of dementia and with carers to share learning, to collaborate and to discuss what local people feel would be most beneficial to them. It's also an opportunity for key leaders to launch any new work they are doing around dementia or to seek views on their plans.

The Life Changes Trust is holding events like this all across Scotland, to give those who have direct experience of dementia a meaningful voice in how they want to receive support locally.

Gillian Skuse, Managing Director of Age Scotland Orkney said,

“These events are aimed at supporting people in our community and to raise awareness. We have worked in partnership with many people to make this happen with our Dementia Hub being at the centre of this. The value of these events must not be underestimated as they will give a voice to the people of Orkney at local and national level ”

Day 1 will have a focus on people with dementia and unpaid carers, with creative engagement and storytelling sessions.

Day 2 focuses on community connections with a Screen Memories Session centred on the 50s & 60s. This will be followed by an evening social event featuring the Polkadots with swing, lounge jazz and a bit of rock 'n' roll as well as the Orkney Jive Dancers.

Day 3 will be the main ‘Community & Dementia: Creating Better Lives’ conference, bringing together people with dementia, unpaid carers and staff from independent, statutory and third sector organisations.

The conference will feature local projects from both the mainland and the isles as well as young people, whose commitment in relation to dementia awareness and learning is growing. Participants will also hear from people affected by dementia about “What works for them” to inform how to better support ‘Community & Dementia’ in Orkney.

The conference will be chaired by the Reverend Susan Kirkbride from the Peedie Kirk and Councillor John Richards, who is also a member of the Orkney Integrated Joint Board. The conference will be hosted at the Pickaquoy Centre in Kirkwall.

Anna Buchanan, CEO of the Life Changes Trust, said, “We know from experience that very often it is local, grassroots organisations which, by their very nature of being local, have the most immediate impact on people living with dementia, their families and unpaid carers. We are very much looking forward to finding out what really matters to people in Orkney and how they think support should best be delivered.”

The Life Changes Trust was set up with a Big Lottery Fund endowment of £50 million to improve the lives of two key groups in Scotland: people affected by dementia and care experienced young people.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

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 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.