



## **Media Release**

### **For Immediate Release**

### **£100,000 boost for dementia friendly communities in Scotland**

From Angus to West Dunbartonshire, people who are affected by dementia will enjoy greater support thanks to £100,000 funding from the William Grant Foundation, working in partnership with the Life Changes Trust.

The money will be used to add further value to a number of dementia friendly communities that are already making a difference across Scotland.

In 2015, Scottish charity The Life Changes Trust invested £3.4 million in 14 dementia friendly communities in Scotland, with a further £2 million investment to be announced in the summer.

Eight projects will benefit from this additional funding, including the Sporting Memories Network, Kirrie Connections (Kirriemuir), and the Arora bilingual dementia friendly community in the Western Isles.

The money will help more people living with dementia and their carers remain included in day to day life, rather than excluded. The Festival Theatre in Edinburgh is developing a dementia friendly play – “The Great Lafayette” – which will tour up to 20 care homes, as well as feature at the Luminate Festival in October 2017. Paths for All will work with a wide range of partners in order to develop a dementia friendly park in Stirling.

Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust – which is a dementia friendly football club - will use the money to learn how they can assist people with dementia and carers from minority ethnic communities living in Aberdeen.

In Scotland, it is estimated that around 93,000 people have dementia, and this number 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.

**Anna Buchanan, Director of the Life Changes Trust dementia**

**programme said:** “Dementia Friendly Communities work to make sure that people living with dementia and their carers do not become cut off from the places and people they know and love. They enable them to remain integrated in society, live as independently as possible and participate actively in decisions that affect their day-to-day lives. This extra funding from the William Grant Foundation will support some exceptional dementia friendly communities to extend their reach and benefit even more people whose lives are affected by dementia.”

**Nick Addington, Chief Executive of the William Grant Foundation**

**said,** “We are interested in how people can be supported to live well with dementia, and believe that community connections and relationships are key to this. Dementia Friendly Communities are therefore a good place to start for our Foundation, as we begin funding projects in this space. Partnering with the Life Changes Trust and the projects they already fund around Scotland gives us a fast track to learning about what’s already happening, while giving several effective organisations the chance to try out some new ideas with our funds.”

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.

**ENDS**

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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.

[www.lifechangestrust.org.uk](http://www.lifechangestrust.org.uk)

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The company has long given to a wide range of non-profit and charitable organisations and projects across Scotland and remains committed to donating 1% of pre-tax profits each year to charitable causes. The company’s family shareholders established the William Grant Foundation in 2014 to oversee and direct its donations.

[www.williamgrantfoundation.org.uk](http://www.williamgrantfoundation.org.uk)

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