

Services provided by the Alzheimers Society in Epping Forest District.Dementia Support Service

This service receives grant funding from ECC and has the following agreed objectives.

- The service will be staffed by Dementia Support Workers who will provide one to one information, guidance and support to people living with dementia and their carers.
- People with dementia and their carers will be supported to maintain their independence, increase control over their lives and improve their sense of wellbeing.
- Dementia Support Workers will assist people with dementia and their carers to identify their needs and to access services.
- Dementia Support Workers will provide specialist information and guidance on living with dementia.
- Dementia Support Workers will receive training for this role from the Alzheimers society which includes face to face and web based training and peer learning opportunities.
- Dementia Support workers will liaise with relevant statutory and voluntary organisations in relation to the service and on behalf of service users. They will be responsible for representing the needs of people with dementia and their carers at local events.
- Support staff will facilitate a group for people with dementia and their carers for the purpose of social contact and peer support.

Monitoring returns suggest that in the first 4 months of the financial year this service had provided information, guidance or support to **199** people. 113 of these were carers and 80 were people with dementia.

There are 2 full time Dementia Support Worker posts but one of these was vacant and has only recently been filled.

The manager has confirmed that the Epping locality service runs a number of groups;

- a Monday morning Breakaway group on three Mondays during the month for people with dementia and their carers, which offers activities for people with dementia and social contact and interaction for carers and is 2 hours long.
- A "Care to Talk" group in Epping on the other Monday morning (2nd Monday in the month) which is primarily a carers group, but also offers support to people with dementia.

- A Branching Out group once a month in Loughton, where information is exchanged and speakers attend at times.
- In addition they facilitate pub group lunches on each Tuesday and Thursday, These are not staffed or supported by the dementia support team, however one of the volunteers provides a coordinating role at each group.

Day Service (receives grant funding from ECC).

Recent information states that **26** people are currently accessing the day service which provides breaks for **29** carers. The service operates twice a week and provides activities, guidance and peer support in what is described as an informal and social environment. The focus is on individual's own interests and life history and enables them to take part in meaningful activity, and positive engagement with other people who have dementia.

The service provides a break for carers from their caring role.

Befriending/Leisure and Wellbeing Service

This service is relatively new and is provided across Essex and receives ECC grant funding. The aim is to provide 1 to 1 support to people with dementia to enable them to maintain, regain or develop skills, social networks and leisure interests. It aims to promote the wellbeing of people with dementia and increase confidence, self esteem and independence. Support can be given to a person to go shopping, maintain a leisure interest etc. There are no figures regarding the number of people supported in Epping as the leisure and wellbeing worker has only been in post since July 2010.

Dementia Care Advisors

There is a funding agreement in place with West Essex PCT and ECC to support this service. 3 Dementia Care Advisors are employed to support people through the period surrounding diagnosis. There is one DCA for the Epping area who works 28 hours per week. During the period Mid July to 6th September the advisor had seen **23** people with dementia and **27** carers.

Supporting younger people with dementia

A Support Group has been established for younger adults with dementia (under 65) and their carers. This is a joint group that supports the Epping Forest and Harlow localities. This is a monthly group and supports on average 10 people with dementia and 15 carers. The number of families from the Epping and Harlow localities who use the Alzheimer's Society Outreach Service is approximately 40.

Sheila Davis
Strategic Commissioning Officer
15th September 2010