

December 2025



**Sandwell Community
Dementia Service**

SCDS News



Who we are:

SCDS NEWS is the newsletter of the Sandwell Community Dementia Service, offering free advice, information, and support to individuals concerned about their memory and those living with dementia in Sandwell.

Our service is a partnership of eight local voluntary sector organisations, working together to support individuals and families at every stage of the dementia journey. We provide training, raise awareness, and help create Dementia Friendly Communities across Sandwell.

Whether you are living with dementia, caring for someone, or seeking guidance, SCDS is here to support you every step of the way.

We are here for you:

☎ 01902 826 655

🌐 murrayhall.co.uk/SCDS



Scan Me!

Midland Metropolitan University Hospital 1st Anniversary

Dementia Navigators, Sandra Graham and Claire Williams from Sandwell Community Dementia Service were invited alongside other organisations to the first anniversary celebrations of the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital. Who can believe it has been a year since the hospital first opened its doors to patients.

Whilst there they showcased 'The Magic Table' an interactive table activity supporting those living with a dementia diagnosis. They spoke to many people during the day explaining the support offered by Sandwell Community Dementia Service and how to support and communicate with someone living with a diagnosis of dementia or memory concerns.





Supporting Primary Care

On 22nd October, Sandwell Community Dementia Service were invited to attend the Dementia and Patient Participation Day at the Village Medical Centre in Wednesbury. The day was very well organised by Practice Manager Sharon Cooper, who had invited patients living with dementia, their families, practice staff, and managers and staff from care homes where patients with dementia reside. Service Manager Helen Kennedy and Dementia Navigator Claire Williams were kept busy throughout the event.

Many valuable conversations took place, covering subtle changes family members can make to support a person living with dementia, how to continue living well after a diagnosis, and activities that help with motivation, stimulation, and cognition. It was also a great opportunity to catch up with our colleagues from Admiral Nurses, Stacey Harrison and Charmaine Cox, who attended alongside us.





Dignity and Delight Launch Day

Sandwell Community Dementia Service were honoured to be invited to the launch day of Dignity and Delight for a fantastic day of connection, support and community.

Based at the Royal Naval Club in West Bromwich, Dignity and Delight is a community hub offering a safe, welcoming space for those living with dementia and for local heroes to meet others, make friends and feel supported. For Service Manager, Helen Kennedy and Dementia Navigator, Sandra Graham, it was a day of conversation and connection, talking about dementia.

It was wonderful to spend time with the veterans and listen to their stories, and see their photos from their time in service around the world. We were in great company with several other local support services in attendance. We were privileged to have lengthy conversations about dementia with Councillor Steve Melia, the Mayor of Sandwell and the Deputy Lieutenant for the West Midlands, Blind Dave Heeley OBE





Striving to be a Dementia Friendly School



Helen Kennedy and Lee Allen from Sandwell Community Dementia Service were asked to deliver a Dementia Friends Session at Ormiston Forge Academy on 18th November. They received a fantastic reception from students and staff at the after-school event. The students from years 8, 9, and 10 and the staff from across a variety of departments listened intently to the information, making numerous notes along the way.

They had one question to ask at the end – **How can we help you?** This led to another discussion about how to get the conversation started about dementia to reduce the stigma surrounding it. Students were asked to put on their social media – Today I attended a talk about dementia, to check with anyone they know who has dementia whether they are supported by Sandwell Community Dementia Service, if not to explain how the service can support them and how to refer in to the service.

There is so much activity happening in the school with regard to dementia through the 'We Will Care Project'. Student Ambassadors will be promoting a dementia friendly environment. They are writing an article about dementia in their school newspaper, they have a thrift shop to raise money for a dementia charity, and they are planning more things for the spring term, which we are excited to hear about.

The staff and students were provided with Dementia Friends badges, which they added to their lanyards, ready for others to start conversations about dementia.

It was wonderful to see the fantastic amount of work taking place within the school regarding dementia which is driven by the head teacher and numerous staff members.





New Dementia Hub for West Bromwich

Sandwell Community Dementia Service's Dementia Advisor, Michelle Adologogie has started a Dementia Hub based at the West Bromwich African Caribbean Centre. The group runs the first Friday of every month at 10.30am-12pm. The group was set up to support carers and informal carers, but Michelle will not turn anyone away. The first session was a huge success with attendees including carers, people living with dementia and people supporting those living with dementia through volunteering. The attendees were very attentive to the presentation given by Michelle and asked numerous questions throughout.

The first session was an insight into dementia, explaining the facts, myths, statistics and communication. Michelle also focused on the stigmas surrounding dementia and in particular within the African Caribbean communities, how we can breakdown those stigmas and how we can support those with a diagnosis to live well. She also explained the importance of being part of a community and activities to maintain stimulation.

Michelle's concept for setting up the group was not only to promote the fantastic support available to those with a dementia diagnosis, seeking a diagnosis and their families, carers and supporters but to raise awareness around dementia and the support available, reduce stigmas surrounding dementia and identify the barriers that are stopping people from seeking the support and help that is available to them.

Michelle will focus on a different topic area at each session to continue to raise awareness and breakdown the stigmas associated with dementia.





WE SUPPORT!



**WE OFFER PRACTICAL
ADVICE**



**WE HELP PLAN
FOR THE FUTURE!**



WE LISTEN!



WE RAISE AWARENESS!



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!



Making a Referral to SCDS

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.

How do I make a referral?

To make a referral, please contact the Single Point of Access by telephone or email. Our Dementia Navigators will triage new referrals and provide coordinated support alongside our Dementia Advisors to ensure the best possible care.



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