



April 2026



**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](http://murrayhall.co.uk/SCDS)



## A Day in Dementia: A Shift in Perspective Experience

### Join us



**Tuesday, 9th June**



**Anytime between 10:30 am and 2:30 pm.**



**Murray Hall Community Trust,  
St Marks Road, Tipton DY4 0SL**

Everyone is welcome to join and experience firsthand the challenges faced by individuals living with dementia or frailty when carrying out everyday tasks, and discover simple changes that can make these activities more accessible.

Gain valuable insight into how someone living with dementia perceives these tasks differently, helping you better understand and improve day-to-day activities, and support those around you to continue living well with dementia.

Whether you work with people living with dementia, care for someone, or simply want to learn more, everyone is welcome.





## Dementia Awareness Session at Gurdwara Baba Sang Ji: Engaging Community Support in Sandwell

On 15th January, Helen Kennedy and Lee Allen of Sandwell Community Dementia Service received a warm welcome at the Gurdwara Baba Sang Ji in Smethwick to deliver a Dementia Awareness session to the congregation and committee members. The session was very well received, with Lee explaining the importance of having a lasting power of attorney in place, and emphasising the need to do activities with someone, not for them – use it or lose it. He demonstrated the steps involved in making a cup of tea, highlighting the difficulties someone with dementia might face when making it alone, but how easily it can be done with assistance.

### The group asked many questions, including:

- Is there support available before diagnosis?
- Is depression the same as dementia?
- Are there any early interventions that can help delay the onset?



The Faith Sector and Inclusion Development Officer described it as an engaging session on dementia, expressing great admiration for the clear and simple language used to deliver awareness to the congregation and committee members at the Gurdwara. Thanks to Baba Sangh Smethwick Gurdwara for hosting us, and a big thank you to all who attended and benefited from this session.  
— Shahin Akhtar, Public Health, Sandwell Council.



Some of the items purchased from one of the donations.

## A heartfelt thank you!

We were incredibly grateful to receive several very generous donations from Michelle Brookes at Forces Support, Stone Cross, West Bromwich, Village Medical Centre, Wednesbury and the family of the late Bernard Francis who were extremely grateful for the support they received from Sandwell Community Dementia Service.

The symptoms of memory loss can be worrisome and a diagnosis of dementia can be stressful and challenging for the person living with the diagnosis, the carer, family members and friends. The team at Sandwell Community Dementia Service work tirelessly to provide advice, information, emotional and practical support across the whole of Sandwell and these kind donations enables the dementia team to provide activities to reduce loneliness and isolation, maintain cognitive function and engagement and provide meaningful occupation which would otherwise come at a huge cost to the families.

Comments received from recipients include:



She missed doing puzzles. These books are specially designed for someone living with dementia, so mom is enjoying doing her puzzles again



I find it relaxing colouring the pictures in my book and completing the puzzles.



The day clock helps me to know what day it is as well as the time, the screen is large and easy to see.



It is lovely to watch the grandchildren complete the jigsaw with him, it is a normal activity they can do together again.



Photographed are Michael Duckett and Steve Carrigan from Murray Hall Community Trust along with Michelle Brookes from Forces Support.



# Sensory Roadshow

In support of Sandwell's Dementia Friendly Communities Strategy, a sensory and ageing experience facilitated by the Provider Support Team from Sandwell Adult Social Care took place at Murray Hall Community Trust on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026. This immersive experience offered the team a brief insight into the daily challenges faced by those living with dementia and old age frailty.

## Staff comments included:

It was very interesting and was put into perspective as someone they know is going through dementia. It made me realise I need to exercise more patience. Trying to put the letter in the envelope was really frustrating.

Really informative. Gave a deeper understanding of what someone living with dementia goes through. You don't understand what dementia entails but this was very good at giving an insight.

It was tiring trying to complete the activities for just a small period of time; I couldn't imagine how draining it would feel 24/7. I felt highly frustrated at how difficult it was trying to complete simple everyday tasks. It gave good awareness and made you stop and think.

We would like to thank the Provider Support Team for the insightful experience. We would also like to thank those who took part for immersing themselves 100% into the activities and sharing their feelings around the difficulty of completing the basic tasks as well as the frustrations and emotions that tasks brought out in them.





**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.



**EDITOR -**

**Kathryn Lesny**

**kathryn.lesny@murrayhall.co.uk**

**Helen Kennedy**

**helen.kennedy@murrayhall.co.uk**