

LGA Call for evidence 2014

From: Kasia Kurowska <partnershipmanager@ageuksunderland.org.uk>
Sent: 12 November 2014 14:53
To: LGA Call for evidence 2014
Cc: Alan Patchett; Julie Marshall
Subject: The Essence Service – A new Integrated Dementia Pathway in Sunderland
Attachments: Essence Service Leaflet.pdf

To Whom It May Concern

We are writing in response to the call for evidence on Age Friendly initiatives across England for the Centre's current call.

We would like to offer an example of innovation and partnership work in Sunderland, Tyne and Wear to address the social, health and wellbeing needs of older people with dementia in the City. We believe this example is relevant to the Centre for Ageing's call for evidence. It demonstrates how the City's Third Sector have been supported by the CCG and Local Authority to take forward a new and innovative service to support people with dementia and their carers in Sunderland. It demonstrates a commitment from Public Bodies to invest in the Third sector to deliver key services for older people. It also demonstrates effective collaboration between a number of Third Sector partners to create an integrated dementia pathway in the local community for people with dementia and their carers.

Age UK Sunderland has worked with Sunderland Carers' centre to establish the new dementia service, which is called The Essence Service. It is funded by the Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group.

It provides support for people recently diagnosed with dementia and their carers. The Essence Service will provide a range of support to those affected by dementia helping them to feel supported to make sense of their or their loved ones diagnosis and maintain their quality of life. This will include supporting people with dementia to access mainstream services and participate in community activities for as long as possible.

With a dedicated support team the Essence Service will offer expert dementia support which is person centred. It is called the Essence Service because the service will look beyond the dementia diagnosis at the 'essence' of the person including their personality, interests and unique needs and how these can best supported.

The Essence Service will also undertake a local commissioning role for the Sunderland CCG and work with VCS partners to provide dementia support that supports but does not duplicate the work of the Essence Service.

We have also created a new dementia hub for the City, the Sir Thomas Allen Centre, based at the former Doxford Library on Mill Hill Road which has kindly been provided by the Local Authority. The building has been refurbished to meet dementia friendly criteria and the Essence Service will use it as an office and activity base.

It is a new and exciting development for dementia support in Sunderland and will help to create an integrated dementia pathway in the City. We have attached a leaflet for more information and would be happy to provide more information if the Centre wishes to learn more about the new service for the Call for Evidence work.

Kindest regards

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