Dementia Awareness Week
15th – 21st May 2017
Feedback Report
Dementia Awareness Week 2017 took place between 15th and 21st May. Yet again partners worked together to show their continual support in raising awareness of dementia by hosting a variety of exciting activities throughout the week and offer information, advice and support to members of the public.

The week kicked off on Monday, with an information stand outside Boots in the Frenchgate Centre. A variety of information and resources were made available to shoppers to increase their knowledge of dementia and promote the services in Doncaster supporting people with the condition. During the lunch period, Jean Stewart from Enrich and a group of people with dementia and their carers treated passer-by to a musical feast of popular songs from days gone by.

Across town, in Thorne, an information display was erected for the whole of dementia awareness week at the Vermuden Centre courtesy of Thorne Library and Jane Davies, DMBC Wellbeing Officer. A range of resources and information were available for members of the public to read and take and staff were on hand on the Tuesday for further advice, support and signposting.

The regular Doncaster Central Music Café at Trades and Labour Club in the Frenchgate took place on Monday afternoon.

Tuesday was a busy day for events across the borough. Awareness raising activities included; An open Dementia Friends Information Session at Holmescarr Centre in Rossington, a Coffee Morning at Moathills Day Centre in Bentley, Alzheimer’s Society Tickhill Conversation café at Tickhill Methodist Church, a Coffee and Cake Sale at Intake Library where a total of £50.40 was raised for a local dementia charity, and another Coffee morning at Scawthorpe Library which also raised funds for a local dementia charity.

The RDaSH Healthbus was located outside Frenchgate Centre on St Sepulchre Gate between Tuesday and Thursday. Partners from Public Health, Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group, Alzheimer’s Society, SY Fire & Rescue Dementia Project, Hall Cross Medical health Checks, HealthWatch, darts and Doncaster Admiral Service came together to man the bus over the three days, offering information and advice to members of the public and promote their services.

Enrich hosted an activity session at Chequer Road Baptist Church Hall where people with dementia and their carer’s could join in a variety of activities including table tennis, boccia and bingo!

The customary Charity Golf Day in aid of Doncaster Alzheimer’s Society took place on the Tuesday afternoon at Wheatley Golf Club.
Two performances of Az2B’s emotional dementia themed play ‘Grandma Remember Me?’ were shown in the Second space at Cast on the Tuesday. 120 Pupils and staff from Hexthorpe Primary and 58 from Woodlands attended the performances alongside professionals and members of the public with an interest in dementia. The play was extremely well received and the pupils put the Cast members in the Q&A session at the end of the performance. Here’s some of the feedback from the pupils;

‘I really enjoyed the show, because it had some great actors and it made me laugh and cry. I loved it.’

‘The show was incredibly emotional and in some parts made me cry. I have a relative that has dementia and some parts were actually funny, for example when they were singing, but overall it was emotional.’

‘You play taught me a lot about dementia, I thank you so much Lily, John, Shandy and Ben (Characters).’

On Wednesday, Mallard Ward held a Dementia Information Display and Cake Stall outside the Kitchen at Doncaster Royal Infirmary. All funds raised from the cake stall have gone towards making the wards around the hospital dementia friendly.

The Hayfield Resource Hub had Afternoon Tea and put on some fun activities for service users including a Sing-a-long, quiz, reminiscence display and raffle. Proceeds raised were split between Alzheimer’s Society Dementia Friends Charity and the centre’s ‘snug’ room.

10 volunteers attended Wednesday afternoon’s Sporting Memories training at Goals in Doncaster. Sporting Memories supports people living with dementia, depression and loneliness by engaging them in social activities and helping them to recall memories of watching or playing sport. Lets Get Active and DMBC Leisure Services are looking to hold regular Sporting Memories Session at Goals. Further information will be circulated once details have been confirmed.

Thursday turned out to be a perfect sunny afternoon for the Garden Tea party in the beautiful surroundings of the Walled Garden in the grounds of St Catherine’s House. Coffee, tea and cake was provided to attendees courtesy of staff at the Walled Garden Tea Room.

Across in Woodlands, people with dementia and their carers met at Woodlands South Yorkshire Fire Station for Alzheimer’s Society’s monthly Walking Memory Café.

Matt Windass from the Workforce Development Team at Doncaster Council delivered four Dementia Friends Information Sessions on the Thursday to apprentices at the council. The sessions aim to increase understanding of dementia and make people aware of the small things they can do to help someone living with the condition. All four sessions were well attended and well received with 33 Dementia Friends created.

On Friday, The DDSP presented the annual Doncaster Dementia Celebration Event at Doncaster College which aims to celebrate the progress made since the launch of the “Getting There” Dementia Strategy and the difference it has made to people with dementia and their carers in
Doncaster. The vent brought together over 150 delegates including people living with dementia and their carers and representatives from various partner organisations and businesses.

The day included presentations from a variety of guest speakers. Hilda Hayo, Chief Admiral Nurse and CEO of Dementia UK, kicked off the first of the presentations with the latest national picture on dementia. Michele Clarke, Strategy & Delivery Manager for the DCCG reflected on the progress made during 2016/17. John Stiles, son of World Cup winning hero Norbert ‘Nobby’ Stiles who was diagnosed with dementia, Lucy Robertshaw from darts discussed the project delivered in Doncaster which uses music and Makaton signing to help people with dementia communicate more effectively.

To round the morning off on high, Roy Barnes and Nobby Stiles announced and presented the winners of the Doncaster Dementia Awards. Winner of the individual award went to Wayne Goddard, Integrated Lead for Dementia, for his continual dedication and commitment to supporting people with the dementia and his passion and enthusiasm for driving this agenda forward. This was Wayne’s last day as lead for Dementia, so we bid him a fond farewell and wish him all the best for the future.

Winner of the organisation category was awarded to the South Yorkshire Dementia Fire & Home Safety Project. A South Yorkshire Dementia Action Alliance and South Yorkshire Fire Service partnership project which works towards ‘Keeping people living with Dementia Safe from Fire, Safe & Found, Safe & Well’.

Highly commended was awarded to Jayne Pyatt, Healthcare Assistant at DRI, for the individual category. For the Organisation category, Highly Commended was awarded to Young Onset Dementia Service and Making Space Day Centre at Moathills for their dementia gardens.

The afternoon saw, Admiral Nurses, Jo Liversidge and Liz Tomlinson talk about the Doncaster Admiral Service. Rod Kersh, Consultant Geriatrician at DBHFT discussed Person Centre Care in the acute hospital and Shirley Mccredie and Angela Dungworth presented their South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Dementia Project.

Hilary Piercy from Sheffield Hallam University presented the findings from evaluation of the Doncaster Admiral Service. Sally Summers talked about her
experience caring for her mother who has been diagnosed with dementia. Carola Tramsen from RDaSH and the students from Our Lady of Sorrow’s School, Armthorpe, delivered a short play on dementia.

The day was rounded off with a final presentation from Wayne Goddard, Integrated Lead for Dementia who discussed next steps and Doncaster's Partnership approach for Dementia to 2020 ‘Doncaster Together’.

Throughout the day, the Alzheimer’s Society Tour Bus was located at the Waterfront next to the College, offering information and advice on dementia and promoting the support and services available in Doncaster. Alzheimer’s Society also ran their monthly Singing for the Brain session at Cantley Community Centre on the Friday afternoon.

Dementia Awareness Week came to a close on the Saturday with a Family Funday at Sandall Park organised by the Mallard Ward at Doncaster Royal Infirmary to raise funds for reclining chairs for patients on the ward. The event included food and cake stalls, crafts stalls, fair rides, bouncy castles, local classic car show, donkey rides and lots more. The local emergency services were in attendance alongside other local dementia services offering information, advice and support to members of the public.

Nearby in Wheatley, Dementia Friends Champion Frances Darby and Dawn Stephens, Stronger Communities Officer held an open Dementia Friends Information Session for members of the community at Wheatley Park Baptist Church.

The Doncaster Dementia Strategic Partnership would like to thank everyone for their time, energy and commitment in making this year’s Dementia Awareness Week another great success.