



## **Media Release**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

### **Dementia friendly funding for Pentlands**

Communities in the South West Pentlands are to benefit from a funding boost of £30,000 from the Life Changes Trust to develop and strengthen their dementia friendly activities.

Dementia Friendly Pentlands already has a planning group, which has been running across the communities of Juniper Green, Currie and Balerno for several years. The aim of the group is to build communities that are safe, inclusive and resilient enough to support people living with dementia and their carers, families and friends.

The group has established a dementia friendly café (PALM) and work hard to raise awareness of dementia through public engagement events and local training sessions.

This new funding will allow Dementia Friendly Pentlands to extend their services and develop a wider variety of support for people in the communities.

Engaging with groups such as Community Councils, the City of Edinburgh Council, local churches, Alzheimer Scotland, and a variety of other dementia organisations, they will also:

- establish a dementia 'hub' to act as a community access point
- consult with people affected by dementia, as well as those who offer support services and local businesses
- establish more dementia friendly cafes
- raise awareness among the local community of support that is available and how to access this support

The project is a partnership between Volunteer Edinburgh, Balerno Community Council, Currie Community Council, Balerno Parish Church, and Juniper Green Community Council.

**Clare Dow, Vice-chair of PALM cafe and Dementia Friendly**

**Pentlands said:** "Dementia Friendly Pentlands is delighted to receive this funding to support us in establishing our communities as dementia friendly. We are committed to supporting people living with dementia and those close to them, and helping them to continue to engage with and contribute to their communities in a meaningful way. This funding will help us work towards understanding the needs of people living with dementia – we want to find community led solutions which meet those needs and ensure that the community is equipped with the necessary understanding and skills to provide people with the most appropriate help and support."

The funding award is part of a second phase of Dementia Friendly Communities investment from Scottish charity, the Life Changes Trust. The Trust invested £3 million in 14 dementia friendly communities in 2015, the success of which has led to a further investment of £2 million.

Dementia Friendly Communities are places where people affected by dementia, including carers and family members, are included and supported to do the things that matter to them. They also help empower those whose lives are affected by dementia so that they remain integrated in society, live as independently as possible and participate actively in decisions that affect their lives.

Some dementia friendly communities are geographical communities, relating to a specific location like those already established in West Dunbartonshire or Kirriemuir. Others are communities of interest that bring people together because they are interested in similar activities, for example, sport, art, or walking outdoors.

**Anna Buchanan, Director of the Life Changes Trust dementia**

**programme said,** "A diagnosis of dementia can often lead to social exclusion and isolation. This funding will help develop and sustain an environment for people with dementia and those who care for them

across the South West Pentlands, so that they are part of their own communities, supported to do things that are meaningful to them, valued as individuals and involved as members of society.”

The Life Changes Trust was established by the Big Lottery Fund in April 2013 with a ten year endowment of £50 million to support transformational improvements in the quality of life, well-being, empowerment and inclusion of two groups: people affected by dementia and young people with experience of being in care.

## **ENDS**

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

For more information on Life Change Trust funding for Dementia Friendly Communities, see the Trust website:

<http://www.lifechangestrust.org.uk/projects/dementia-friendly-communities>

\*Dementia Words - Our work with people with dementia has shown that the phrase “Dementia sufferers”, or using the word suffering to describe dementia has a strongly negative view from people with the condition. We would request that you avoid using the phrase in headlines or in any article you publish to combat the negative way that people with dementia feel the condition is described.