



# Scottish Dementia Friendly Communities Network

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Celebrating Kind, Caring,  
Connected Communities

24 April 2023



# Why establish a network of dementia friendly communities in Scotland?

- “Working with local health and social care partnerships and the third sector, community groups and businesses we will support and enhance local dementia-enabled communities and reduce social isolation and loneliness, as part of our shared action to strengthen and recover resilience in our communities”.

22 December 2020, Scottish Government Coronavirus (COVID-19) - dementia and COVID-19: action plan

- Our aim:

A network of Scottish dementia friendly communities which are supporting, empowering and inspiring people living with dementia and unpaid carers, **in their own community.**

# What is a dementia friendly community?

- There is no agreed definition of a dementia friendly community, but...
- A dementia friendly community can be a **geographical community**, and/or a **community of interest**, and demonstrate most (if not all) of the '9 principles' identified by the Life Changes Trust in 2019.
- We estimate that there are hundreds of dementia friendly communities already operating in Scotland, and some may not even recognise themselves as such.

# Who is part of a dementia friendly community?

- People living with dementia, unpaid carers, family and friends, service providers, the local community, health and social care professionals, elected representatives, local and national government and many more....
- Dementia friendly communities are inclusive, and most will have some members who do not have a formal diagnosis of dementia.

# Who could be part of the dementia friendly community network?

- Existing dementia friendly communities, including Meeting Centres
- New and aspiring dementia friendly communities
- People with lived experience who may not be a member of an existing community
  - People living with dementia
  - Unpaid carers of people living with dementia
- Individuals and groups from communities who are on the margins of the wider Scottish dementia community. For example:
  - People from ethnic minority communities; Gypsy and Traveller communities; People who are sensory challenged: D/deaf, living with hearing loss, blind, living with sight loss; people with learning support needs; Care homes and day centres; and people from lower-income backgrounds.

# What are the benefits of being part of the network?

- ✓ Membership of a new network with new contacts, partnerships and relationships
- ✓ Opportunity to contribute to local and national consultations, and a vital resource bank for future dementia policy
- ✓ An opportunity to increase the strength and status of dementia support services which did not feature prominently in previous national dementia strategies

# What are the benefits of being part of the network?

- ✓ A stronger, louder voice to champion community-based services which have people with lived experience at their heart
- ✓ Shared information about funding opportunities and sustainability
- ✓ Mutual learning and formal mentoring opportunities: BOLD/About Dementia/Age Scotland training, peer mentoring, training courses, study visits etc
- ✓ Support to try new things – Meeting Centres, 'user-led' approaches e.g. Deepness, STAND
- ✓ Low cost and low demand – membership is free, and will not be onerous or time-consuming