

Young Onset Dementia Forum

Notes of a meeting held on 17th October 2017

Birchwood Leisure Centre.

1	Present
	Carers 4 Professionals – Adam Thapar Hertwise project
	Sally Stratford
	Carers in Hertfordshire
2	Welcome
	All were welcomed to the Forum, followed by introductions.
3	Hertswise – Adam Thapar Project Manager
	<p>Hertswise, available from June 2017, is a service designed with people living with dementia, low level memory loss or mild cognitive impairment, and their friends, family and carers at its heart.</p> <p>It's provided by a partnership of community and voluntary groups to ensure we can provide the kind of support that you need. Hertswise aims to ensure that people of all ages, living anywhere in Hertfordshire are able to easily access information and advice, activities and support. We will have the right service to enable you to make positive changes to your health and wellbeing to both prevent the onset of dementia and to live well with memory loss and dementia whether or not you have (or want) a diagnosis.</p> <p>What is available?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information & Advice for all aspects of your life • Activities and groups designed by you • Carers support groups, and advice • Assistive technology information and advice • Specialist (Community Information Network) Advisors <p>For more information, please call our direct point of contact HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044</p>

For more information and the full leaflet please see the link below:

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/brandpartnerglobal/hertfordshirevpp/hertswise%20for%20service%20users.pdf?epslanguage=en-gb>

As part of this project we work with people with Young Onset Dementia and their carers. We have just been awarded some extra funding for a full time worker to work specifically with this group, they will start in November. They will do one to one work as well as group work. Currently we have two YOD groups in Hatfield and Ware. They are active groups who do a variety of activities and trips. The groups should increase and there will hopefully be more in the West of the county.

Carers were very interested in joining and trying these groups, they were not aware of them before the forum.

Adam was thanked for coming along to the forum.

4 Discussion

Sally discussed the following issues that had been raised from the last YOD forum at the Dementia Strategy Meeting:

- People with YOD being diagnosed outside of EMDASS (Early Memory Diagnostic and Support Service) not receiving any of the services and support offered during and after EMDASS. This was raised and a pathway for diagnosis for people with YOD is being designed to help improve services for this group.
- YOD blue badges being declined – Carers in Hertfordshire have written regarding this but have not heard back. Hertswise project can support carers to complete these forms and have been successful in getting applications approved.
- YOD day centres – it is difficult to identify which day centres are suitable for people with YOD, this has been raised and is ongoing work.

Carers then discussed various difficulties that they were experiencing in their caring role and how distressing it was. They thought that groups and meetings like this were so useful and helpful for them, especially as there are such limited services for people with YOD and their carers.

5 Any Other Business

Carers were thanked for attending. Next year there will be some YOD forums – dates are yet to be confirmed.