

Alzheimer's Society
Strabane Enterprise
Agency
Orchard Road Industrial
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Orchard Road
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23 April 2014

Dear

Re: Dementia Friendly Communities Steering Group – Western Area

Alzheimer's Society, with the support of voluntary/community, business and statutory sector organisations, wish to support people with dementia to live full and engaged lives within their community for as long as possible.

We will create dementia friendly communities in organisations, villages, towns and cities across Northern Ireland.

In order to establish what a dementia friendly community will look like within certain areas and in order to monitor progress we are establishing a Dementia Friendly Community steering group in the Western area.

The involvement of local council members/ officers will be instrumental in the success of dementia friendly communities across NI so we see it as vital that there is council representation on the steering groups. We do hope that you will consider joining the Western area steering group or will be able to nominate someone to do so. In terms of Western area, we will be focusing our work in Derry/ Londonderry and Strabane throughout 2014/5.

The Dementia friendly Communities programme is now underway and is challenging misunderstandings and stigma surrounding dementia in order to improve the ability of people living with dementia to remain independent for as long as possible. With greater awareness the wider community can support people with dementia to carry out daily tasks independently, including using community facilities/groups such as libraries, banks and post offices, helping them to live the lives they want within their

community.

It will also help to dispel the fear that many people have of dementia and how to relate/ communicate and support a person with dementia. We are also seeking to improve partnership working between relevant organisations to ensure a more holistic approach to support and care across Northern Ireland for those living with dementia.

If you would like to get involved by joining the steering group or would like more information on the programme please contact Dubheasa Gallagher, Dementia Friendly Community Support Manager South & West NI on 07885 899010.

The first steering group meeting is set to take place on Tuesday 6 May at 2pm- 4pm. Venue to be confirmed.

I would like to thank you in advance for considering getting involved in this programme.

Yours sincerely,

Dubheasa Gallagher

Dementia Friendly Community Support Manager
South & West NI

