

## **Wells Community Hospital's Dementia Hub**

This dementia hub will be based on partnership working arrangements.

Proposed "partners" include the Wells Hospital Trust itself, the Alzheimer's Society, Norfolk & Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust, Norfolk County Council's Assistive Technology Unit, Norfolk Libraries, Age UK Norfolk, Tapping House (Norfolk Hospice), Heritage House Elderly Day Care Centre, Many Happy Returns and the local school.

Talks are underway with Wells Town Council about the town becoming a dementia friendly community. If this goes ahead it will bring businesses, churches and other clubs and organisations into the mix.

Health Minister Norman Lamb, GP surgeries in Wells and Burnham Market, the Norfolk & Suffolk Dementia Alliance, Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust, West Norfolk CCG and North Norfolk CCG have all expressed support for the hub.

Most of the activities will be based at the hospital site or at the neighbouring Heritage House elderly day care centre. Included will be multi-sensory experiences using tried and tested dementia communication techniques"

These include:-

- Developing the current Alzheimer's Society monthly meeting from a coffee club into daily vibrant 2 to 3 hour therapy sessions which will include the likes of singing, art and pottery, reminiscences, tai chi and pilates. Some research among the target audience is planned before final subject choices are made.
- Research, most likely with the University of East Anglia, may be linked to the venture to track results.
- A "safe house" demonstrating the most up to date dementia aids. Members of the public would be able to place orders to buy. The safe house would also double up as a training facility for professionals, volunteers and people with dementia.
- An information centre offering print and online services.
- A Dementia Café
- One-to-one meeting space for carers.
- Meeting facilities for support groups.
- A training room to help local businesses, groups and organisations to become dementia aware.

All of the hospital staff will receive dementia awareness training and investment will go into making the building completely dementia friendly.

## **COMMENT FROM NORMAN LAMB...**

*"I am incredibly excited with your plan to create a dementia friendly community. This is exactly what we want people to start developing. We have a massive challenge to spread awareness and understanding of dementia. Norfolk and Suffolk are taking a lead in this regard but it would be brilliant if Wells pursued this - and I say this particularly as the Minister responsible for dementia at the Department of Health. I am keen to do what I can to support you in this endeavour. With very best wishes and good luck." - **Norman Lamb MP***