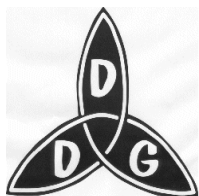


DARNALL DEMENTIA GROUP



**Welcome
to our
Annual Report
2023**



**Providing Day Care and support to
people living with dementia and their
carers in Sheffield**

Welcome to our 2023 Annual Report.

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has been involved in Darnall Dementia Trust in any way during this year.

We have faced many challenges during the year, but our attenders and carers continue to tell us that their contact with us is a lifeline and brings joy to their lives.



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Chair's introduction



Hello and welcome again to our Annual Report. A chance to pay tribute to the work that so many have contributed to over the last year. Another very interesting year at Darnall - both joys and challenges. Can I firstly say thanks all the staff, volunteers and Trustees who have given so much of themselves over the last 12 months. Also, a huge thank you to all of you who have been members of Darnall and all of you who have supported us to support your loved ones.

All of us who know Darnall, know that it feels like a very special place and has been for over 40 years. This year the service was reviewed by Sheffield City Council as part of their contract. A Council representative spent the day with us and was extremely impressed saying that it felt "just like a big happy extended family". She was impressed with the person-centred nature of care and particularly with the communal lunch. Personally, I think that the service being described as big happy family is the best tribute. This is what we aim to do!

Financial resources remain a key challenge for us at Darnall. We are absolutely committed to personalised support and care and, as the needs of our members increase, this does require more staff support. It is a privilege to be part of Darnall and I hope you enjoy the Annual Report.

Kevan Taylor, Chair of the Trustee Board

What we've been doing this year:

- We have continued to deliver the Sheffield City Council contract, to provide Person Centred day care on 3 days per week, for up to 10 people living with dementia who have assessed needs. We received very many favourable comments from the Council in its review of the service earlier this year.
- We have worked with the Council to try to ensure timely and appropriate referrals.
- We have continued to monitor what's happening with Covid 19, updating our safety procedures at least every month and more frequently if necessary.
- We have continued to provide carer support through our regular Carers' Group.
- We have provided a wide range of appropriate activities in the Day Centre, tailored to meet the needs of attenders.
- We have updated staff and volunteer training and DBS checks.
- We have supported students on placements from schools, colleges and the universities in Sheffield. Students have contributed to the life of the group, at the same time as receiving useful experience, training and development.
- We have continued to seek funding for extra activities especially music, employing a professional song leader, Andrea Small, for several sessions per month, to engage participants in music.
- Since the resignation of the Service Manager in the Autumn of 2022, the Day Centre Manager has taken on the role of managing the service which is run by herself and 6 other paid staff and a small team of volunteers.
- The Day Centre Manager supported staff and clients through the changes to the service resulting from the new contract which came into force in February 2022.
- The Day Centre Manager has supported carers on a day-to-day basis and through the regular monthly Carers' Group. Carers are also supported by all staff when they are in contact.
- The Risk Register has been updated, including an environmental audit. Repairs to the building have subsequently been carried out.
- Policies have been reviewed and updated.
- To ensure that we can provide a good experience every day, extra funds have been applied for and secured for special activities and occasions.

Linda Woollen writes:

I'm passionate about Darnall Dementia Group as it cares for people living with dementia in a dignified and respectful way, providing them with an activity packed and enjoyable day.

During the later years of her life, my mother attended the group, as well as a couple of other day centres. Myself and my dad attended the carer support group here and at one of the other centres. Whenever we saw my mum at Darnall she was always happy and enjoying herself, along with the other group members. When we attended the other carer support group, she was usually sat in a chair, with a few other attendees, staring into space, with no one appearing to bother about her and no staff member in sight. At lunch time she was seated with the other clients, just left to eat their lunch, or not, without any encouragement or assistance at all.

Since volunteering here, following her death, it has reinforced my opinion of what a wonderful service is provided here. All the members of the group are regarded as friends by all the staff and volunteers, who all work extremely hard to make their day as enjoyable as possible, and lunch is taken in the same way, with all of us sitting together. It gives me so much pleasure to be a part of it.

When I was approached to be a Trustee, I had no hesitation in becoming part of the management team.

Linda Woollen

Trustee and Day Centre volunteer.



More about Linda:

Linda breaches every gap - without payment, without complaint, often without having to be asked.

She fills so many gaps - coming in on extra days, providing help in all aspects the running of the Day Centre, serving lunch, sometimes engineering - mending things and putting things right.

She is always cheerful, and always positive.

There is relief amongst the staff when Linda is in for the day.

She is also a great thinker, she may not have said much in a meeting, having been quite quiet, then she will suggest something which is clear and seems really obvious.

She is a great asset to the organisation - Thank you for all you do, Linda!



of

from Lynsey and all the staff, and from Lisa and all the trustees

The Day Centre:

Finding out what people enjoy and enabling engagement with these activities is key to the success of the work of Day Centre



What we have done in the Day Centre:

- We continue to provide a wide range of activities which are tailored to meet the assessed needs of attenders
- More volunteers have been recruited. We have been fortunate to have engaged some excellent volunteers to work with us whose contribution has enhanced the work of the Day Centre. We continue to advertise for volunteers and there's always room for more.
Some volunteers have come as part of their University courses and have proved to be excellent team members. Sadly we have to say goodbye to them when their course ends and they move on.
- We continue to work under the new contract with Sheffield City Council, which took effect from February 2022. The new contract has meant a change in the way that new referrals are received, assessed and welcomed as new attenders. Consequent adjustments have been made for the staff and volunteers, as well as for people attending and for their carers. We continue to work as closely as possible with referrers, so that the transition to the Day Centre is made as smooth as possible.
- Introducing new people to the Day Centre is a vital part of their journey with us. People who have had no prior meetings with a member of our staff may find it difficult to agree to attend, and might find it difficult to settle in the new environment. We now have an arrangement whereby a senior member of staff can go to meet the potential client and get to know them before they are invited to attend the Centre. This allows them to try it out and be slowly introduced to the idea of attending regularly. Confidence in our care has grown amongst referral agencies and referrers are now more likely to give more relevant information on referral, which helps the transition process.
- All staff have continued to work tirelessly and show enormous resilience during the year, despite continued changes and stresses.
- We continue to monitor our Health and Safety procedures, which take into account the physical, emotional and psychological needs of attenders, the limitations of the building, and the recent rise in Covid cases in the city.



Carers Support

- We have re-established the monthly face to face Carers' Group.

This is much appreciated by all the carers who attend. Carers are often stretched beyond what they feel capable of.

Enormous benefit is gained from having the person they care for attend the Day Centre and meeting with other carers who really understand the difficulties they face. Support for the role of caring for a loved one who is living with dementia is hugely important.

- Ad hoc support to carers from all staff continues: The member of staff escorting on the transport may be the first to hear about an emerging situation.

All members of staff are alert to taking account of what carers report. and ensuring that t

The Day Centre Manager is informed about any concerns, and appropriate action is taken.

- When a person is about to attend for the first time, carers often attend the Day Centre for the first visit, which may just be for an hour with a cup of tea. This gives both the person who is about to start attending, and their carer, a chance to see what the place is like, meet the staff, and get a feel for what it would be like when the person starts to attend.



Volunteering at the Day Centre:

We continue to be fortunate to have the support of really wonderful volunteers working alongside the paid staff.

The volunteers contribute a wide range of skills to the work of the Day Centre, which enhance the experience of the attenders.

During an ordinary day at the Day Centre, one attender asked what Jamie, a sixth form student, was learning here at DDG.

He was hesitating and she said: "We are learning you how to be happy".

One volunteer, an Occupational Therapy Student from Hong Kong said: "I am learning communication, and about your culture, and listening to the chat, I am picking up more of the way people talk to each other."



The staff at the Day Centre:

Throughout the year there have been many challenges, which have affected the staff and how they work at the Day Centre.

All the staff have shown enormous patience, flexibility and resilience, ensuring that each day, the experience of attenders is as good as it could possibly be. Kindness, patience, valuing every individual, and treating each person with respect and care, means that attenders feel safe, secure and as happy as possible during their day. A huge thank-you and vote of appreciation is due to all the staff.



Treasurer, Jo Saul writes:



I was first introduced to the Darnall Dementia Group in March 2020. The work that the Day Centre was doing really interested me, so I decided to join the board of Trustees. This was just as Covid hit, so I joined at a very difficult time. Covid impacted every aspect of the Day Centre including the finances and as the Board of Trustees needed a Treasurer, I decided to offer to take the role. My background is in IT in the Finance industry, so I enjoy working with spreadsheets and numbers.

Ensuring the Day Centre finances run smoothly is always a challenge. Our main source of income is our Council Contract, but this just, (dare I say barely?) covers the main running costs. We rely heavily on external grants and donations to allow us to provide the level of care that we want. However, we are regularly supported by several organisations and their contributions are invaluable. Due to the hard work of our Finance Administrator, Michael Johnson, we have been successful in our grant applications in this financial year, so we are heading into 2024 in a good financial position.

Jo Saul, Treasurer of Darnall Dementia Trust.

More from the Day Centre:



**Sharing
enjoyment,
valuing each
person's choices,
keeping
company with
them where they
are, so that they
have the best
possible time.**

Celebrating birthdays and other special occasions is a big part of the life of the Day Centre



**Playing games,
exercising,**



**having
fun.**

Getting stuck in to craft activities



Working together



Making things together





Music is a lovely way to spend time together.



Sometimes
with an
added bit
of silliness
as well!



Everyone enjoyed Christmas activities brought by students from Sheffield College



Jacquie, who attended that day, asked if she could speak to the group when the session was finished. She told the students that she had really enjoyed it, and that they should come back again next Christmas.



Staff:

Bev Graham, Day Centre Manager
Lynsey Button, Day Centre Worker, Deputy Day Centre Manager
Peter Bemba, Day Centre Worker
Fiona Allinson, Day Centre Worker
Rachel Gozzard, Day Centre Worker
Katie Zwerger, Day Centre Worker
Marwa Shakeri, Relief Day Centre Worker
Michael Johnson, Financial Administration Worker

Volunteers:

Linda, Joan, Jen, Kirsty, Rehana, Jack, Tom, Moira, Kashaf, Faharna, Aliyah, Nicole, Louisa, Jill, Kemi.

Apologies if we have missed any volunteers - we were not able to access the full list of volunteers when compiling the report.
Your help is still much appreciated!

Thanks to all staff and volunteers for all their hard work, support and creativity,
which has meant that we have provided a good service to attenders and carers and brought enjoyment, fun
and laughter to their days with us.

Trustees:

Kevan Taylor, Chair, Staff Management; Jo Saul, Treasurer; Lisa Heller, Secretary, Staff Support; Linda Woollen, Volunteer at the Day Centre, and trustee; Hazel Wood, John Thompson; Mark Saxton - who retired in November 2023

We are looking for more trustees. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in serving on the trustee board, please contact Michael Johnson at the DDG email address: darnalldementia@yahoo.com

We would like to thank:

- ❖ All the Attenders and Carers: for their continued support.
- ❖ All the Staff:
Bev Graham, Day Centre Manager; Peter Bemba, Louise Dunn, Lynsey Button, Fiona Allinson, Rachel Gozzard, Katie Zwerger, Marwa Shakeri, Day centre Workers; Michael Johnson, Finance Administrator. Thank to them all for all the hard work and continued excellence in the service provided.
- ❖ All The Volunteers: for their continued support and for the diverse range of skills which they bring, and which help to make the Day Centre enjoyable for everyone.
- ❖ Trustees: Kevan Taylor, (Chair), Jo Saul, (Treasurer), Lisa Heller, (Secretary), Linda Woollen, Hazel Wood, John Thompson, Mark Saxton.
- ❖ Staff Support: Kevan Taylor, Lisa Heller, Penny Philcox.
- ❖ St. Alban's Church, Kinder and Janet, the Churchwardens, and Gina Kalsi from the Church Army for our Day Centre space and meeting room for our daytime Carers' Group.
- ❖ Manor Community Transport: For their transport service
- ❖ Wayne, Jess and Staff at Lightwood House Kitchens for providing hot meals for the Day Centre.
- ❖ Andrea Small for musical entertainment.
- ❖ Beanie for musical entertainment
- ❖ All our donors, who are listed in this report.
- ❖ Staff of Sheffield City Council contracts and commissioning department.
- ❖ Examination of Accounts: Sarah Lightfoot at 7 Hills Accountancy
- ❖ Sheffield Health and Social Care Trust: For providing office facilities at Lightwood House.
- ❖ Clive Betts MP for ongoing support
- ❖ Voluntary Action Sheffield
- ❖ Staff at Darnall Wellbeing Centre
- ❖ All our visitors and friends, for continued friendship and support.

Thanks to all our donors this year:

- ❖ Sheila Ellin in memory of her husband John.
- ❖ Pat Fairest in memory of her husband Tony.
- ❖ Charles & Elsie Sykes Trust.
- ❖ Sarah Nulty Power of Music Foundation.
- ❖ Freshgate Trust Foundation.
- ❖ The Talbot Trusts.
- ❖ Zachary Merton & George Woofindin Convalescent Trust.
- ❖ South Yorkshire Community Fund.
- ❖ The Sheffield 1000 Charity.

These donations have enabled us to provide music, extra events, food and supplies for special occasions, new activities and much more, in order to help us continue to provide the best service we can, and to enhance the experience of the people who attend.

Our thanks for all these kind donations.

Darnall Dementia Trust Annual Report for 2023



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