

# Dementia Friendly Hasland

## Making our 3 Practices Dementia Friendly – Our journey and success



**Inspire Health Patient Participation Group (PPG) has been working hard over the last year to make the 3 GP Surgeries that form the Inspire group 'Dementia Friendly'. We have now received accreditation as 'Dementia Friendly General Practices'.**

This is an initiative devised by the Alzheimer's Society, which involves working through an extensive programme of changes to our Practices to make them better at supporting patients who have had a diagnosis of dementia. It is also beneficial to the patient's families and carers.

The areas covered are:

- General Practice systems
- General Practice culture
- Diagnosis and Care
- Physical environment – involving a 'walkthrough' our practice by a patient beginning in the car park right through to actually sitting opposite the doctor or nurse.



Our team are of the increasing belief that working to improve care for dementia patients not only leads to benefits for the patients but also for the practice staff and the whole community.

Working on our 'Dementia Friendly (DF) programme has shown us that people's attitudes change once they are educated about tackling the difficult issues around this diagnosis. This helps with the fear, stigma and misconceptions about the illness and promotes 'caring in the community'. This is probably the most important change we need to make to support families living with dementia.

### Our journey in 2019...

#### We have:

- Worked with the Practice team to develop a DF Toolkit. This will always be a 'work in progress' as things can be continually improved – especially with the help, comments and support of the active PPG members.
- Held 2 DF Information Sessions - one in Chesterfield and one in Hasland. Over 100 people attended with 85 new Dementia Friends made.
- Advertised, advertised, advertised. We have explored all manner of ways to advertise the developments we have made by working with the Practices. We have also been wonderfully supported by Trudy Ford at the Hasland Magazine who has recorded our developments over the months.
- Negotiated with The Alzheimer's Society for Luiza, a Dementia Support Worker, to be made available for families living with dementia. Families can now book a half hour appointment to discuss any difficulties they are facing.
- Held a stall in a marquee at the Hasland Summer Gala along with the Alzheimer's Society, Hasland Resource Centre and the local Lloyds Pharmacy. This was a big success with many people signing up to come along to a DF information session or to join the PPG and to help Hasland become a DF Village - or all 3!
- Triggered a movement for Hasland to become a DF Village. This is an exciting development, which began with the PPG but has escalated into a community initiative with great potential to improve the lives of the estimated 400 families living with dementia in Hasland.
- Held a DF Information Session for all of our Practice staff and clinicians so that they have all become Dementia Friends.

### Our goals for 2020.....

- To continue with the work and improvements for our DF General Practices.
- To hold another DF Information Session in Chesterfield in March (everyone welcome - the date will be advertised soon).
- To continue our work to make Hasland a DF Village and extend this work to contribute to Chesterfield becoming a DF Town.

**We will provide progress updates on our website and via our newsletter. If you feel you would like to support the work then please email [inspirehealth.ppg@nhs.net](mailto:inspirehealth.ppg@nhs.net).**