



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Local charity YPWD, win the lottery!**

The local Berkshire based charity, Younger People with Dementia (YPWD) have had a lottery windfall. They are delighted to announce that an application to the lottery for funding has been successful and £333,379 has been awarded to the charity, spread over a two year period, to enable them to help more younger people with dementia.

The charity helps people throughout Berkshire that are diagnosed with young onset dementia. The condition affects adults under the age of 65 and nationally there are about 42,000 younger people with dementia across the UK.

People with young onset dementia can be in their 40's, 50's and 60's and have been known to be diagnosed in their 30's. They often experience a more rapid decline in cognition and quality of life at a time when they may otherwise have expected to be in employment and have an active social life. The same applies to partners and other family members who consequently face social isolation and stress.

It can also effect relationships with young children and cause increased anxiety for them at a time when they look for parental support, this could be when they are taking exams, exploring future career options or looking forward to a family celebration. The diagnosis can come at a particularly devastating time and can be a real shock.

The lottery funding will assist the charity to deliver a range of services over the next 2 years. This includes a variety of workshops designed to give younger people with dementia opportunities to take part in social and activity based programmes. This also offers respite to carers and family members when they need it most.

Respite workers also offer time limited 1-1 support to people that feel a group setting may be too difficult, this supports individuals to regain confidence and boost self-esteem. YPWD also provides access to Admiral Nurses who are specialist dementia professionals, providing psychological support, home and lifestyle advice and connections to other services.

YPWD work in conjunction with the local Memory Clines to deliver educational courses, they answer questions such as What is Dementia? include information about Medical, Research and Legal Aspects, Understanding New Behaviours, Memory & Communication, Activities, Nutrition and Looking After Yourself.

Another important area of support is providing information to children with parents who are diagnosed with young onset dementia. YPWD have written a book aimed at children between the ages of 6 - 9 years old to help them



understand what to expect when their Mum or Dad will gradually change into someone they won't recognize as the person they remember.

The lottery funding will make a huge difference to the charity and Caroline Blanchette, Business Support Manager of YPWD said ""We were so delighted when we were advised that we had been successful in our bid to the Big Lottery. We couldn't believe it. It will make such a difference to the lives of so many people living with young onset dementia."

The charity has plans to deliver the vital service to as many people living with young onset dementia throughout Berkshire as possible. They work with memory clinics, GP's and the NHS to enable a holistic treatment programme which delivers support from initial diagnosis.

YPWD offer a unique programme of support to individuals with young onset dementia and through the lottery funding they will be able to continue with their vital work that makes such a difference to those living with young onset dementia. With thanks and support from each person that has purchased a lottery ticket YPWD will be able to continue their valuable work.

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors:**

#### **Young People with Dementia**

- Younger People with Dementia (YPWD) aims to support people living with dementia under the age of 65 and their family and carers.
- The needs of younger people with dementia and their carers differ greatly from older people.
- Young Onset Dementia affects adults between the ages of 30-64.
- It has a reported prevalence rate of between 54 and 260 cases per 100,000 and nationally there are about 42,000 younger people with dementia.
- In Berkshire alone, there is an estimated 572 people with young onset dementia (based on Dementia UK report 2014) with about 211 people currently known to care services currently living at home or in care homes.
- Traditional services are designed to meet the needs and expected therapeutic out-comes of older adults and subsequently, access to activities appropriate for younger adults with dementia is limited.
- People with young onset dementia often experience a more rapid decline in cognition and quality of life at a time when they may otherwise have expected to be in employment and to have an active social life. The same applies to partners and other family members who

consequently face social isolation and carer stress (Deliane van Vilet, 2010).

- In many cases, carers have to give up work to support their partner and therefore, the ability to provide respite on a daily basis is often pivotal to keeping carers in work.
- For the person with dementia, lack of appropriate activities can result in an increase in social isolation, apathy, a decline health and increased risk of behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia.
- Having dementia at a younger age is associated with a greater number of unmet needs and unmet needs are associated with an increase in neuropsychiatric symptoms. This, together with increased carer stress, is major risk factor for institutionalisation. (Bakker, 2013). Specifically, the study found that an increase in the number of unmet needs leads to the occurrence or worsening of neuropsychiatric symptoms.
- Studies have shown that the indirect cost of illness in younger persons with dementia (informal care cost, treatment and mortality costs) are up to 16 times those of older people.

## The Big Lottery

- Last year the Big Lottery Fund awarded almost £713 million and supported almost 14,000 projects across the UK for health, education, environment and charitable purposes.
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- **About us:**  
The Big Lottery Fund uses money raised by National Lottery players to help communities achieve their ambitions. From small, local projects to UK-wide initiatives, our funding brings people together to make a difference to their health, wellbeing and environment. Since June 2004 we have awarded £8.5 billion to projects that improve the lives of millions of people.