



SDAA Newsletter

June 2025

This newsletter is formed from reports from members of the Selsey Dementia Action Alliance. The meeting was unable to take place due to technical difficulties on 24th June 2025. To find out more about any of the items, contact: sdaa@selseycommunityforum.uk

✿ **Mike Nicholls** welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were accepted.

✿ **Karen Halford**

Karen was unable to attend the meeting due to counselling commitments but was able to send the following report.

"It has been a busy month. I have been working closely with Adult Services on some complex cases and also with Environmental Health where needs are desperate.

Man with a pan has gone well and we have another session booked for next Tuesday when a roast dinner will be prepared and cooked by the folk attending.

Training sessions are still busy with new requests coming through.

Money support is busier with all types of requests for help with Gas/ Electricity, Pension Credits, Council Tax, Debt, PIP & AA.

We are providing support for a child who has not attended school for over a year.

We are also working on 2 cases with Paul Thompson, from Environmental health".

PLEASE NOTE: Concern was raised by a resident this afternoon which I Karen believes has been reported to police and Richard Moorey; 2 young men visited a property in Beach Road claiming to be linked to the Care Shop. They were paid for doing garden work which wasn't satisfactory.

Mike commented that we are dealing with a lot of serious scams at the present, particularly involving roof repairs where people are taken in by rogue traders.

Mike explained that Karen's role is a mix of 2 days in the Care Shop, 2 days in the community, 2 early mornings in the community as well as 3 evenings in the community plus Saturdays and Sundays.

We have recently been discussing the best way of using all our staff and freeing them up. One of the ideas we have been trialling is using more of our volunteers in the Care Shop. If we use more volunteers in the Care Shop this will release our staff who will then be able to work more in the community.

For example, The Rookery has 8 residents that Karen sees separately in The Care Shop. So our thinking is that Karen holds a weekly clinic in The Rookery and see those residents during that specific time rather than on separate appointments throughout the week. This would free her up to help others. The Care Shop is not a suitable place to talk about serious issue. It is not private or confidential and can be very noisy and is not suitable for people who have dementia or other health problems.

Sussex Grange – Home Care

Corinna Forsdike updated the meeting about Home Care who have now appointed an Active Key Coordinator for Home Care. She has already arranged for some 1-1 activities for the clients and has also asked our staff if they have skills they could share. We can then see if we can match with a client. For example, teach someone to crochet, which would be an hour's activity for the client and bring them into the community. Next Monday afternoon there is an organised trip to Costa and a couple of the staff are wheeling a few of the clients to Costa in their wheelchairs. Corinna said she and a supervisor have just completed their Train the Trainer Dementia Training, which will be useful to the staff at Sussex Grange. Carol a member of their Admin Clerk staff just won a highly commendable award for Clerical workers; this was from the WSPIC accolades awards. They are still recruiting in readiness for September. They do have capacity for a few packages of Care if needed, its always worth asking them if anyone comes into the Care Shop asking for help with Care at home. They are branching out a bit more and its getting busier in Lavant. Instead of people walking past the shop they are calling in. Karen Pirks has helped one lady with a problem and had a good outcome.

Sussex Grange Care Home

Kellie Barker said they had recently successfully recruited more staff and introduced their new deputy manager Toni Nicholson who joined the meeting for the first time.

They have their PIR certificate signed off.

This year they joined Open Gardens Day and welcomed over 200 visitors to their garden which looked lovely thanks to their gardener who has worked extremely hard over the last few years, and it looks remarkable.

There was live entertainment with the Selsey Molls and with the refreshments this helped to raise £171.31 in total.

One of our Kitchen Team has been working on her kitchen qualification and it's now in her reach. With all her hard work she has achieved her practical and personal observation in the Care Home and achieved a distinction.

The Kitchen Team have been busy with their delicious home bakes. There have been 5 birthdays celebrated and Father's Day and each cake was completely different.

The have enjoyed trips to local shops and Costa. Afternoon Teas, The Beacon Church came, Melody Lanes, Mobility Mindfulness with Sarah. We have had entertainment with Craig and Sharon. And Ice-creams on the terrace as well as a visit to the beach.

There has been lots of interest for Day Care guests and we have full occupancy of 20 residents in the Care Home with a waiting list. We have 4 frequent Day Care guests and again a waiting list. The Open Gardens generated more interest and enquiries for both residential care and day care. We have our upcoming WSPIC's Managers' Forum in July.

Mike N said the Open Gardens generated over £6,000 for local charities and was a real success.

Robins Service

Mike N explained as we develop our Robins service, we appreciate very much our partnership with the Sussex Grange Care Home and Home Care. We have been developing our Robins End of Life Befriending Service with local Care Homes. We have just received 6 referrals from Tenchley Manor and are currently matching clients with volunteers. We also have someone who regularly visits The Bill House and folk who regularly visit The Malthouse and Caraway House.

Sarah is building up relationships not only with Sussex Grange residents but also in the Care Homes and the community. We have more volunteers coming on board for Robins. Building relationships with care home clients before they may need support at end of life, is especially important, and Kellie agreed.

Deirdre asked Kellie if Sussex Grange take dementia clients. Kellie said they were registered for dementia care but do not have signs on doors etc. They do lock the doors of the Day Centre. They are always happy to have a conversation and do an assessment. They have recently had a lady who has dementia join them for day care where her husband hasn't had a break for several years, and he was able to leave her with them and have some respite playing a round of golf. The lady went home at the end of the day and was happy. Kellie is always happy to have a conversation, which Deirdre will keep in mind.

Alzheimer's

Deirdre Timney runs the Carers Support group supported by Karen Halford and Jo their volunteer. There were 12 people who attended last week and Deirdre showed them how to make a Memory Box and what to put in it. By showing them what was in her memory box which stimulated a lot of ideas. The Group have all completed their Dementia Friends training.

The group are now meeting every 6 weeks due to funding being reduced and for some Carers, this group is a lifeline. Deirdre has asked Carers to email her if they are not happy with the situation or need some advice or support.

They have a guest speaker attend each meeting and it's a chance for Carers to offload. The guest speaker at the next meeting is from Bognor Hospital Carers Health Team. There was nothing new to report from the Alzheimer's Society.

General Activities run by Selsey Community Forum

Gents Breakfast has been going for quite a few years now, and runs twice a month and due to demand we have started a Ladies Breakfast now in its 5th month and meets once a month. Those that attend are Carers or former Carers. The Gents eat anything; Bacon rolls or sausage rolls, Cake, but the Ladies prefer finger food. Some of the clients who attend may be living with dementia and some are not. Some come with their Carers and some don't. Therefore, activities have to be balanced for all attending and generally works well.

There will be a Respite Tea held on Sunday 29th June at Caraway House Care Home.

Help Hubs

We have now have a Hub at Lavant once a month and there are now 14 Hubs across the Peninsula and South Chichester. We now find that Care Agencies want to open up their own Hub and we have been mentoring. These are Later Life Hubs and provide assistance with form filling such as Lasting Power of Attorney, Wills, Attendance Allowance and Blue Badge. Those type of form filling exercises that people need help within later life and that leads onto the Robins service our end-of-life befriending service and the two link together.

On Friday 27th June we hope to complete on a property in Wittering to open a Care Shop which may take a year to get up and running we have a template of the Selsey Care Shop we can use.

Buddies Day Centre

The Buddies Day Centre at The Selsey Centre for people living with Dementia. With some guidance from Sage House. Chantelle Maison is pleased to share that they have recently passed their Environmental Health inspection with 5 stars!

They have also just started their CQC registration and will keep everyone updated as we move through the process.

It is currently full on Fridays now and they now plan to start opening on a Monday morning and Chantelle is very happy with the progress so far. The sessions provided are morning session 10-12 then a lunch 12-1pm and afternoon session 1-3pm.

Dementia Support

Mike had recently met a woman of 53 whose father has dementia and does not recognise his daughter. He is unresponsive and non-verbal. She has been finding it tough to meet him and she discussed about starting a support group. Mike has passed on some material from Deirdre. This lady feels there must be other adult children who have a similar experience with a parent who has dementia and she would like to talk to them about their experience. Deirdre suggested making a memory box that he could look at, old family photos and other things from earlier days. Deirdre also suggested putting something together on social media to find out what response there would be to meet for a cup of coffee and have a chat. Deirdre also said she would be willing to facilitate the group and Mike thanked her.

Any Other Business

There was no other business.

 **Next Meeting:** 22nd July at 5.00pm at the Cabin, Beacon Church.

No Meeting in August.