

# Warrington Dementia Engagement and Advocacy Project



Update on Project Work  
September 2024 to  
February 2025





## SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITIES (SADA)

This new group meets twice per month on a Tuesday afternoon, based at the Living Well Hub. It is facilitated by two culturally appropriate volunteers who speak several languages and is overseen by the Still Me project co-ordinator. The group continues to work collaboratively with other agencies to provide much needed support. Whilst still small in numbers, feedback has been positive and discussions are taking place to explore ways to promote the service to more discreet groups across Warrington.





## SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITIES (SADA)



**Dipak**

A few words from Dipak and Gita, Still Me volunteer and SADA group co-ordinators

“With the help of Gita, SADA has met a few times and already I have seen a great improvement in my wife who has Lewy Body Dementia.

The Still Me Project has been pivotal in organising and suggesting the working of the group. Through the activities, my wife Kiran has great support in speaking Punjabi and playing cultural games especially music-related ones. Kiran has grown more in her confidence. I am sure many other people of South Asian origin with dementia will benefit from the group”.



**Gita**

“I feel SADA is a necessity for the Asian community. Dementia is becoming more and more prevalent, and it is sadly still taboo within the Asian community. These barriers need to be broken down in order for the community to feel that they can trust the process and allow us to help them get the support that is needed.

Through our work with SADA we are:

- Supporting groups at Living well Hub twice a month
- Setting up meetings with consultants at Hollins Park to spread the awareness
- Attending every Monday Yoga/Walking/networking group (which has approx. 30 Asians attending )to build that relationship so they gain confidence to allow our support
- Getting to know the organisers of the local places of worship for the Asian community which we believe will help to gain trust and bring down barriers in relation to accepting that dementia exists, and that support is available “





## DEEP GROUP

We continue to support this group, supporting individuals and family members who often arrive in crisis, needing a safe, non-judgemental space to offload, share, seek advice and information, meet others who are experiencing similar challenges or to tap into the dementia support available at the Living Well Hub.





## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The project co-ordinator regularly attends the forums/boards/panels, and contributes to strategy reviews, sharing themes arising from discussions and targeted consultation as well as comments, views and feedback from individuals living with dementia and their family members/carers

- LLAMS post diagnostic group that takes place in the Living Well Hub
- Warrington Borough Council retender process for the new dementia day care service, using feedback to contribute to the reshaping of the new service specification (including young onset dementia, need for different locations/more accessible provision) and taking part in the interview panel. In addition, the project co-ordinator supported a family member to be fully and meaningfully involved in the retender process
- Contributing to the Dementia Strategy Review
- Supporting Warrington Borough Council in the Carers Strategy Review, sharing intelligence from Still Me surveys.

## MAKING CONNECTIONS DEMENTIA NETWORK

The network continues to be supported by the co-ordinator, meeting bi-monthly, gaining new members such as Warrington VIP and Mayfield Care Agency, and working collaboratively on specific topics, issues and promotional activities.

In addition, the network is working collaboratively in the development of the Living Well website. We will be taking part in a workshop to test accessibility from a dementia perspective.





## MAKING CONNECTIONS DIRECTORY

Following feedback from family members and professionals the directory has been updated to include:

- a map identifying where groups are located
- a contents page and index page
- blank pages at the back for people to write notes, names and contact details of professionals involved in their family members support and care

The directory is a live document that is regularly reviewed and updated. It is located on Warrington Speak Up's website, available for distribution through the network and Living Well Hub and paper copies provided on request.

Please see our website for the latest copy of the directory

<https://www.warringtonspeakup.org.uk/warrington-dementia-project/>

## NEWSLETTER

The 4th edition of the newsletter has been produced and distributed digitally across the network and key partners, with paper copies available for individuals and family members. It includes articles highlighting specific services, information on events taking place, reading recommendations, resources and much more.

The Spring newsletter (5th edition) will be ready for distribution in March.





## **NETWORKING WITH LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS**

The project co-ordinator continues to visit groups meeting across Warrington, engaging with individuals, promoting services available and consulting on key topics. In addition, we liaise with agencies /organisations to explore how we can work together. For example, we are currently discussing with a local care agency how we can support the recruitment and management of volunteers, giving time to specific dementia projects.

We have also been approached by a theatre company who work with the Alzheimer's Society and have designed interactive sessions for people living with dementia, to explore how we can work together and potentially commission a creative arts project in Warrington.

## **DEMENTIA FRIENDLY WARRINGTON**

Progress with developing this vision has been slower than we would have liked as it has been reliant on other partners taking the lead. This is something we would wish to prioritise in the future, if funding allowed, and would consider becoming the lead partner to facilitate and grow the work. In addition, we would like to develop our social media offer.

## **MAKING CONNECTIONS EVENT**

Planning is currently taking place for our 4th event on March 13th. This continues to be a popular, fun, informative and well attended event, held at the Gateway. In the future we would like to extend this offer to other locations within Warrington.