



Improving dementia community groups

You said...

Specialist services for people living with dementia are high quality but we can't always access them

What happened next...

We shared your views with people who plan and provide dementia services in Wiltshire and said that it didn't seem that there was equality of dementia community services in the county.

Alzheimer's Support asked us to carry out a detailed analysis of dementia groups as they had recently been awarded the contract to provide dementia community services (Healthwatch Wiltshire Analysis of Dementia Community Support Services report 2017).

We identified areas of Wiltshire where there was a lack of groups, the types of groups that people wanted and what people valued most about community groups.

As a result, there are more groups available for people living with dementia and their carers in parts of Wiltshire where people felt these were needed. These included:

- Gardening groups in Malmesbury
- Art Group in Lyneham
- Memory Café in Mere
- Day Club and Art Group in Warminster
- Memory Café in East Grafton.

There is a greater variety of groups

reflecting what people told us they wanted. These include:

- Wildlife and outdoor groups near Salisbury and Trowbridge
- Gardening groups in Trowbridge, Malmesbury and Wilton
- Discussion group in Devizes
- Memory Shed in Corsham
- The Memorables support group in Salisbury.

There are also more groups for carers of people living with dementia to share experiences and be supported. These have included groups in Melksham, Royal Wootton Bassett and Tidworth.

People living with dementia and their carers have told us about the wide-ranging benefits of these groups and have:

- Seen improvements in their mental and physical health and have an increased sense of wellbeing
- Feel better supported to be more independent and more involved in their local communities
- Are able to access support and information at the groups.

Find out more on our website