

NEWS RELEASE

Devon patients & carers encouraged to



Devon residents living with diagnosed dementia and their caregivers can be one step closer to the opportunity of taking part in the latest clinical dementia research studies by signing up to Join Dementia Research.

The Clinical Research Network (CRN) is raising awareness about the opportunity for people living with the condition, carers and healthy members of the public to sign up to the Join Dementia Research service. The CRN is part of the National Institute for Health Research, which is the research arm of the NHS.

The Network for the South West Peninsula is promoting this service across Devon, Somerset, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to encourage more people to express their interest in taking part in clinical research into dementia through the Department of Health-funded Join Dementia Research service.

On Thursday 20 October a special event is being hosted by the CRN in Exeter for Memory Café and dementia support group co-ordinators from across Devon to find out more about the clinical research studies being conducted and the opportunities for patients, carers and the public to participate in dementia research.

The event at Cardinal Newman House in Wonford Road, from 12 noon to 3pm, is in partnership with Waypoints Care Group which provides specialist dementia care at their homes in Devon and Dorset.

Waypoints Care Operations Director Carl Bradley said: “We welcome an opportunity to support the clinical research endeavours in the Westcountry. Research gives hope to those living with dementia, their carers and communities. More of us will be touched through our families and friendship circles by this condition and the only way we can improve the quality of life for people living with dementia and achieve advances in treatments is through research.”

It is hoped that awareness of Join Dementia Research will be raised at community level through the local Memory Café and dementia support groups in Devon. To book a place on this free event with lunch contact the Clinical Research Network on 01752 431386 or email: CRN.SWP@nhs.net

CRN Clinical Research Speciality Lead for Dementias and Neurodegeneration Dr Ray Sheridan said: “Join Dementia Research provides a single point where people who would like to support research can make themselves known to researchers recruiting to studies. In the South West we have eight dementia research studies open for recruitment.”

Dr Sheridan added: “There are currently 1,290 volunteers in this region registered with Join Dementia Research, of which 14.3% are people living with dementia. We are seeking more volunteers with a dementia diagnosis as well as their caregivers to take part in research; though healthy members of the public can support this initiative too. Registering interest in clinical research with this service gets potential participants one step closer to taking part in a study. Research ranges from new treatments to surveys about what works in improving quality of life for people living with dementia and their carers.”

People over 18 years old can register their interest and it is possible to act as a representative on behalf of someone interested in taking part in dementia research through Join Dementia Research via a national telephone service with charity helplines – Alzheimer’s Research UK 0300 1115 111 or Alzheimer’s Society 0300 222 1122 – or online at www.joindementiaresearch.nihr.ac.uk

Dementia is a broad umbrella term used to describe a range of progressive neurological disorders. There are many different types of dementia and some people may present with a combination of types. Regardless of which type is diagnosed, each person will experience their dementia in their own unique way but symptoms can include memory loss, impaired cognitive ability, confusion and problems with communicating.

Ends

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