

NEWS RELEASE

Somerset patients & carers encouraged to



Somerset 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 Friday 7th October a special event is being hosted by the CRN at South Petherton community hospital for Memory Café and dementia support group co-ordinators in the county 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, from 12 noon to 3pm, is in partnership with award-winning Somerset Care which supports people to live independently with a range of day care, short-term respite and long term care services.

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 Somerset. To book a place on this free event with lunch contact the Clinical Research Network on 01752 431386 or by 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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