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## **Dementia friendly communities in Kingston upon Thames - Collaboration with partner organisations**

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Alzheimer's Society is the largest UK charity focusing on dementia and the only one to tackle every aspect of dementia. Currently 900,000 people are living with dementia in the UK. In the country it is estimated that 39% of people with dementia live in care settings, whereas 61% live in the community. This data highlights the importance and necessity of transforming our local communities and making them dementia friendly.

According to the Office of National Statistics 14.5% of people in Kingston upon Thames are aged 65 years and over. This is 24,200 people in the borough. The number of people living with dementia diagnosis, as per Primary Care Dementia data, in April 2024, was 1,194 people.

Alzheimer's Society is commissioned to provide Dementia Adviser Service and develop Dementia Friendly Communities in the Borough of Kingston. The dementia friendly work is led by the Dementia Friendly communities Coordinator (DFCC).

The DFCC works with local organisations to make Kingston an inclusive borough where all residents affected by dementia are empowered and supported. Any organisation can sign up to better understand the needs of people with dementia and pledge their actions to support the local community.

Some of the local organisations DFCC works with include Adult Social Care Commissioning Team; Lead Primary and Community Care at NHS South West London, leisure centres, care homes, day centres; GP surgeries; social prescribers; Kingston University and Kingston Hospital.

The success of creating dementia-friendly communities relies on the involvement of people affected by dementia. Dementia-friendly Kingston is determined by how the needs of people living with dementia are identified and discussed by those within the community who are most affected. Cooperation has always been key to DFCC's work.