

Kelcbar Centre – Tadcaster

Dementia Friendly Café

Initiative

There was a request from several local people in Tadcaster, who are either afflicted with or are carers for people effected with Dementia to have a place to meet within Tadcaster whereby carers and sufferers can meet, have a social time and to have a safe environment for themselves and loved ones.

The management committee of Kelcbar Social Centre took up the challenge to provide a place to meet. With the help of a grant from the Community Engagement Forum the management committee set up a weekly café on a Wednesday to meet the need of these local people, are providing volunteers to help with the café, as well as a light meal and refreshments throughout the café operating times.

Initial Training

Initial training was provided by representative from Dementia Forward on June 20th and 27th to people who volunteered to help with the café. The training provided gave an insight into what Dementia was and how people are affected by it, which proved to be very enlightening to all who attended, the sessions also showed how different groups throughout the North Yorkshire area operated and what can be achieved, this was a gave a blueprint for the Kelcbar Group to tailor their own activities at the Kelcbar Centre.

Beginnings

The 4th July was the initial café which saw several people attending and plenty of volunteers who had a practice session with real clients. The number of people who attend the Café has dropped from the initial number who came, but this is mainly due to illness. Several new people have visited the Café.

One of the volunteers attended a similar group in Wetherby to get feedback on their experiences and it was found that when they started they had a small number of people which has steadily grown over a few years. As to the activities provided at Kelcbar it was very similar to the Wetherby group.

Progress

The funding provided has been used to purchase equipment to run the café and provide activities for the people who attend, and it is encouraging to see that they are all taking part in the activities, and some are also enjoying the simple fare of soup and a roll that is provided. The Kelcbar Centre produced its own leaflets which gave an overview of what was happening at the Dementia Friendly Café each week and had these printed locally, supporting local businesses. These were placed in specific location throughout the town and the local doctor's surgery advised of the facility available. As well as the Kelcbar Centre Facebook page. The local voluntary car service provide transport for several of the people who attend, and part of the funding is being used to pay the transport costs.

There is a good base of volunteers who assist and are encouraging other people to come and see what is going on. After the initial few months of operation as a Dementia Friendly Café, which is also open to anyone, there is an ongoing hope that it will grow to be a vibrant hub and a safe place for those who are afflicted with this condition and a place

where their carers can have a chance to have a small time of respite and a chat with other people.

Without the initial grant from the Community Engagement Forum this facility would not be available to Tadcaster and surrounding area, and the use of the Kelcbar Centre has provided a hub to meet the needs of those who suffer with Dementia and their Carers.

The management committee and volunteers who have given their time to run this facility are to be thanked for their hard work and dedication to provide a meeting place for those who require it.