



## Dementia Friendly case study: Aelwyd Housing Association

### **‘ Becoming a Dementia Friendly organisation has transformed the way that we engage with our residents’ (Lucy Clewlow, Community Housing Officer at Aelwyd Housing )**

Aelwyd Housing Association have taken action to make their organisation more welcoming and accessible for their residents and staff who are affected by dementia.

### **What Aelwyd Housing did**

Staff identified and made information about dementia available to their residents. They also researched local services to signpost residents to, including support delivered by specialist teams and within group settings. The physical environments of housing schemes were also reviewed, and more accessible signage will be introduced shortly.

Information about help and support for dementia was circulated to staff. The staff handbook is also being revised to include provision for staff requiring leave at short notice, as well as those requesting to work from home temporarily. In addition, a Dementia Friends Champion has been appointed to help embed the vision across the organisation, and to deliver Dementia Friend’s sessions to colleagues.

Aelwyd Housing’s commitment to spreading the Dementia Friendly message is reflected in their willingness to share information and learning across their wider organisation, and with partners, supporters and same-sector organisations.



They have become advocates of the Dementia Friendly community’s initiative by launching a Dementia Friendly roadshow for their residents based across South Wales, in partnership with Alzheimer’s Society. Residents became aware that living with dementia doesn’t mean they have to leave their homes because they now have access to the advice and support they need.

As a result of the action Aelwyd Housing has taken, residents and staff can feel reassured their needs will be understood and supported. It also means that those living with a diagnosis of dementia can maintain their independence and skills for as long as possible.