



**NFCC**  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council

The professional voice of the UK Fire & Rescue Service

## **Fire Health Case Study:** Memory Café- dementia partnership

## Context

The project was set up to help tackle the growing issue of dementia within our communities.

## Aim

To provide more support for those living with dementia in South Yorkshire and to provide a vital link with one of our key target groups in terms of vulnerability to fire.

## Solution

This involved holding 'memory cafes' at one of our fire stations. Adwick Fire Station at Quarry Lane, Woodlands now hosts a monthly memory cafe as part of a new partnership between South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue and Doncaster Alzheimer's Society. The events, held once each month, provide an opportunity for people living with dementia and their carers to meet in a safe, managed environment and to take part in activities to promote mental and physical wellbeing, like games, crafts, colouring and health walks. An Alzheimer's Society Dementia Support Worker also attends each meeting to give information and support to carers. Hundreds of its staff have also signed up to become Dementia Friends- a Government backed initiative which teaches people a little bit more about what it's like to live with dementia, and then turns that understanding into action.

## Outcomes

Positive relationships have been formed with the Alzheimer's Society across South Yorkshire, resulting in training and awareness for crews, increase numbers of referrals for safety advice, the introduction of walking for health sessions which are delivered by South Yorkshire Fire Services volunteers and most importantly well attended sessions which are appreciated by those living with dementia and their carers.

The Alzheimer's Society in Doncaster are also signed up to be a Safe & Well referral partner to enable their staff to identify any re who may be at an increased risk of dwelling fires and ensure that SYFR can complete a Home Safety Check.

## What's next?

Further memory cafes have been established at other fire stations across South Yorkshire. This includes a new Café at Cudworth Fire Station that meets on the monthly basis. We will continue to search for new opportunities to create Memory Cafes at our community Stations in partnership and where need is established.

## Fire service hosts second 'memory cafe' as part of dementia support mission

A fire station based 'memory cafe' which aims to support the growing numbers of people who live with dementia has been launched in Barnsley.

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue's Cudworth fire station hosts the monthly memory cafe, with support from local dementia support services.

The events, which are held on the third Friday of every month, provide an opportunity for people living with dementia and their carers to meet in a safe, managed environment and to take part in activities to promote mental and physical wellbeing, such as chair based exercises.

The group has become the second fire service backed memory cafe to be launched in South Yorkshire, joining Woodlands Memory Cafe which has been operational at Adwick fire station for more than two years.

Officers believe the project will benefit the fire service by providing a vital link with one of its key target groups in terms of vulnerability to fire.

Area Manager Steve Helps, said: "We have already proven in recent years how the fire service is well placed to play a much wider role in terms of tackling some of the big health challenges our country faces in the future. This latest project is the perfect illustration of that aspiration, where fire service resources are helping to improve the lives of one of the most vulnerable groups in society."

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue is also a member of the Yorkshire & Humber Dementia Alliance, which is committed to tackling the growing issue of dementia within communities.

Hundreds of its staff have also signed up to become Dementia Friends- a Government backed initiative which teaches people a little bit more about what it's like to live with dementia, and then turns that understanding into action.

