

Recruiting Trustees for a new dementia charity for the Guildford community

Appointment Brief

Project Code: URHZ



Introduction

We are looking for a diverse team of Founder Trustees to join a new charity that is being set up to develop a much-needed local Dementia Support Hub for the people of Guildford Borough. This is a fantastic opportunity to be in at the beginning and to shape the direction that will best serve the needs of the local community.

Dementia

The sad truth is that dementia, in its various forms and stages, now affects many people in our ageing society; over 15,000 people in Surrey are diagnosed with moderate or severe dementia (Alzheimer's Society) and this is estimated to increase to 20,000 by 2030.

Beyond the statistics many of us need look no further than our own circle of family and friends to recognise the impact of the illness at an individual level. Dementia can be a lonely and isolating condition. The less visible effects are the emotions, questions and new responsibilities for families, friends and carers which brings a hidden burden into the community. Unfortunately, the current national provisions for pre and post diagnosis support are woefully insufficient.

However, good things can happen when a community comes together to bring about change. In both Tangmere, West Sussex and Haslemere, Surrey the vision and determination of a group of local people and the wonderful, continuing support and donations from their local area have resulted in two thriving dementia hubs that bring together support services for those living with dementia. Sage House in Tangmere (www.dementiasupport.org.uk/sage-house) and The Hunter Centre in Haslemere (www.thehuntercentre.co.uk) offer contrasting but equally successful models of dementia care.

Sage House is the first of its kind in the UK – the charity is an extensive but local operation with a wide range of integrated services, including information, advice and emotional support, a full activities menu and carers respite and support for families affected by dementia. The Hunter Centre is smaller with a Day Care Centre for 12-15 people, carer support and information/advice services. (Please see Appendix for further detail on both)



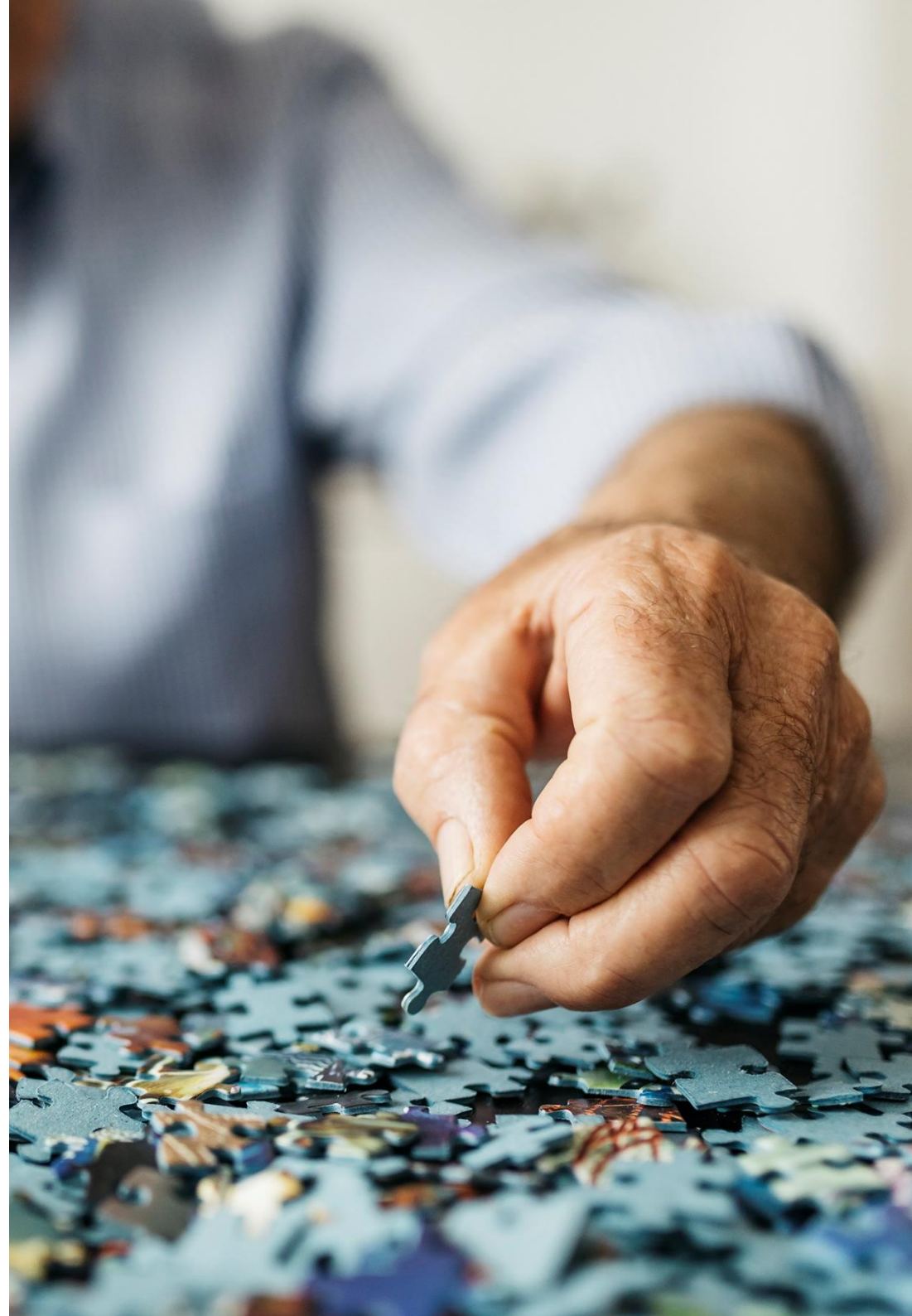
The Goal

To open a new dementia care hub in 2026 for the Guildford area that helps improve the quality of life for those affected by dementia – including the individual diagnosed and their family, friends and carers.

No such service exists in the Guildford area. The Hive is an existing community centre that provides day care support for older people and those with mild dementia. However, they cannot meet the specialist, and personal care needs often required by individuals as their dementia advances and have therefore welcomed our initiative enthusiastically.

It will be for the new Trustee team to take a decision on the direction, scope and ambition of the new venture with the assurance that the experience, lessons learned, procedures and processes that have been built up by Sage House and The Hunter Centre will be theirs to use.

Both Sage House and The Hunter Centre are excited and committed to helping the local community team of Trustees. To date we have met with local organisations such as CMH and professionals from RSCH and have secured initial legacy funding of £50k. We also have two active local Ambassadors for the new Guildford Centre, ex-mayor Sallie Barker OBE and Vice Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Mary Creswell.



The Trustees' brief

We are now looking to build a team of Founding Trustees with entrepreneurial spirit who will create a dementia service that is specifically tailored to the needs of the Guildford area but builds upon the experience of Sage House and The Hunter Centre.

We are looking for people with energy, vision and useful business skills, who are not afraid to roll up their sleeves. They will be commercially minded, co-operative and committed.

The ideal team will include individuals with a mix of experience including finance, fundraising, legal and procedural, marketing, health and social care.

Lived experience of dementia, or previous board or governance experience, can be valuable - but neither is essential.

What matters most is your passion, your willingness to contribute, and your belief in making a real difference.

We warmly welcome applications from people of all backgrounds, communities, and walks of life. Diversity of thought, experience, and perspective will be key to our success.

This is a voluntary, unpaid role and you can expect the following commitments:

- Attending board meetings. These are likely to be quarterly and approximately 2 hours long
- Attending relevant committee meetings. Frequency as necessary
- Attending events and representing the charity as a Trustee
- Time spent setting up and helping to establish the venture
- Compliance with the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship



How to learn more and apply in due course

We would warmly welcome potential candidates exploring the role of Trustee on the Board of this exciting and vital new charity. We are planning to offer a 'Find out more' session in early September.

If you have specific questions, please email them to the Chair of The Hunter Centre, Anne Downing at

chairman@thehuntercentre.co.uk

Please also email to let us know if you would like to attend the 'find out more' session.

We greatly look forward to hearing from you.

Do read further for some additional information you might find of interest in the Appendix.

Appendix

The Hunter Centre in Haslemere

Haslemere is fortunate to have had a dementia Day Care Centre since 1994. It was run by the Alzheimer's Society but when they decided to return their focus to research in early 2017 it looked as though the Centre's days were numbered.

Local resident Anne Downing, who is still our Chair and tireless leader today, together with founder Trustees, solicitor Martin Coakley and then Mayor of Haslemere Malcolm Carter, rallied the community; in an astonishingly short time funds were raised and The Hunter Centre opened its doors in July 2017.

Their purpose is to improve the quality of life for all those living with dementia. This is done in a number of ways.

- They offer day care, companionship and stimulation for people living with a dementia diagnosis, giving them the social interaction they need in a safe and welcoming space. Activities include exercises, music therapy, crafts and reminiscence sessions all aimed at improving the physical and mental health and well-being of our clients.
- They support families and those looking after someone with dementia whose lives change too as a result. The break from caring, when their loved one is at the day centre for the day, the carers say is "invaluable". There is also a weekly carer support group with a varied programme of events, outings and time for a chat with others in the same position, the experienced dementia care team and other experts such as Admiral nurses.
- Information and advice on dementia is also shared widely.

Sallie Barker – Key Supporter

During her term as Mayor of Guildford, Sallie became very aware of the support required in Guildford for people affected by dementia. As a result, she has become committed to establishing a centre in Guildford which can provide services and support to those in need of support and help.

Sallie has been involved in the initial thinking around what is required in Guildford Borough and is now keen to continue this work into the implementation phase.



Community Feedback

"As a wife and full-time carer for my husband, The Hunter Centre is my lifeline. The caring, friendly, efficient team members make my husband's 2 days at the Centre safe and happy and gives him other people to interact with. I can't speak more highly of Elaine and her team. Nothing is too much trouble and they do all they can to fill the days with fun and laughter whilst trying to stimulate the everyone with activities."

"Without this facility, and I know I speak for other families, our lives would be very much harder."

Mrs. M

"I brought my husband here to The Hunter Centre. Reluctant at first to attend, he enjoyed coming on a regular basis. It became his world."

"It was a secure place for him. It was a place where he could be involved in activities that were both stimulating and enjoyable. It also enabled him to live independently at home with me and it enabled me to be able to continue farming while he was at his 'Club'."

Mrs. B



Sage House in Tangmere

Personal stories are powerful. It was a conversation at a wedding about the struggle to find support for a parent following a dementia diagnosis that inspired Anthony Wickins to found the charity Chichester Dementia Support Action Group.

Sally Tabbner, CEO, joined the charity in 2017 to lead the design, development, and creation of Sage House, working alongside the dedicated group of enthusiastic trustees that Anthony had formed. With lived experience of three grandparents, energy and determination, Sally built a like-minded team, and in 2018, Sage House opened its doors - pioneering a new model of dementia support. This centralised community hub brings together local specialists, services, and support systems to provide whatever is needed for families affected by dementia.

Sage House offers support to people affected by dementia from pre-diagnosis through to end of life. It comprises of;

The NHS Memory Assessment & Diagnosis Services onsite enabling clear pathways for people from the outset.

Wayfinding service offering practical information and advice together with emotional support from a personal professional Wayfinder advisor – individuals see the same Wayfinder each time and there are no limitations on access.

Day Breaks specialist respite day care providing meaningful activities built on personal interests and promoting cognitive stimulation.

Carers support including; specialist carers' support courses, peer support groups and a space to relax and have their own time.

Wellbeing activities for mind and body – a full program of art sessions, singing, chair-based exercise, dance, yoga as well as guided reminiscence and topical discussions.

Personal care including hairdressing, complementary therapies, chiropody, hearing clinics, and assisted bathing facilities.

Smart zone - advice on the latest technology available to help people live safely at home.

Dementia friendly café for people to relax in a space where everyone understands the challenges of living with dementia with daily chatter tables.

Outreach Activities and Wayfinding Services to the local community.

The groundbreaking Wayfinding Service allows anyone affected by dementia to talk to a professional for essential one-to-one support and advice. They support from pre-diagnosis

when you first notice potential symptoms and guide families through every step of the journey, advising, supporting and helping people to live well with dementia. Sage House has positively changed the lives of thousands of families in West Sussex and Sally is eager to help others replicate that success elsewhere.

"I love walking into the place [Sage House] it just lifts your spirits as soon as you walk through the door. You know there is just a sense of fun, of ease, of safety, you know, it's all those things. As soon as you walk in it's sunny, it's bright, it's a lovely place."

(Mr. T, Husband and Carer)

"I mean, it's quite dramatic. It saved my life. Yeah. I have had suicidal thoughts, and I don't anymore. I'm safe here, so that's quite huge."

(Mr B, living with a diagnosis)

"So, you don't feel alone then, that sense of community, it's a sense of understanding. It's pretty powerful."

(Miss J, living with a diagnosis)

"He never really understood why we were coming here. But he felt safe to come here, [...] Absolutely safe."

(Mrs. L, Wife and Carer)

Sally Tabbner – CEO Sage House



Sally believes that people affected by dementia deserve better and is now taking her experience in creating and operating Sage House to help support others to establish local provisions of their own.

Together with founder Chair of Trustees Anthony Wickins, they are helping accelerate the charity formation leveraging best practices.

Trustee Experiences

Sara Kelly - Retired GP

I joined Dementia Support shortly after it was set up in 2015. Being a Trustee has been challenging, fascinating and immensely rewarding. I am hugely proud of what we have achieved for local people affected by dementia.

Chris Thornhill - Co-Founder & CEO Growth Animals

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Ken Watson - Retired Architect

Few of us are fortunate in our family's lives not to be touched by Dementia and so to be given the opportunity to support and add value through my working experience to such an amazing Charity as a Trustee is a truly rewarding experience. Apart from anything the Board of Trustees are a 'family' who enjoy each other's company and combine our knowledge to assist the Charity. To see our efforts assisting the dedicated team at Sage House Tangmere, with whom we regularly interact, is one of my life's great pleasures.