



Alzheimer's Society in Luton currently offers dementia support at five GP surgeries (Moakes Medical Centre, Gardenia and Marsh Farm Practice, Woodland Avenue Practice, Leagrave Surgery and Bramingham Park Medical Centre) for patients registered with those surgeries. People affected by dementia can book some time, once a month, to talk to one of our experienced Dementia Support Workers about their dementia, their caring role, coping strategies as well as emotional support. However, while initially appointment bookings at all surgeries were high, as time has gone on they have reduced and some months there have been no appointments booked.

Offering dementia support at a GP surgery means that patients are offered an enhanced service by their Practice; it may also reduce the amount of time a GP needs to spend with a patient - our appointments are typically 30 - 45 minutes each. It is also an ideal way for the Alzheimer's Society to offer an outreach service in the community in a safe environment.

A possible way to increase the uptake of appointments is to offer them to patients who are registered with other surgeries within the same cluster group; this could either be at the same location each month or rotated between surgeries depending on room availability etc. Bookings would be handled by Society staff in liaison with Practice Managers (or other staff if appropriate).

We are also supporting practices to become Dementia Friendly by improving dementia awareness for both practice staff and patients. A number of surgeries have hosted Dementia Friends Information Sessions supporting Luton's goal of becoming a Dementia Friendly Community.

We will be attending the PMFI meeting in October to talk about these issues further and to get feedback. In the meantime if you have any queries or comments please don't hesitate to contact us on 01582 470910 or email bedfordshireandluton@alzheimers.org.uk