

## Pledge Case Studies

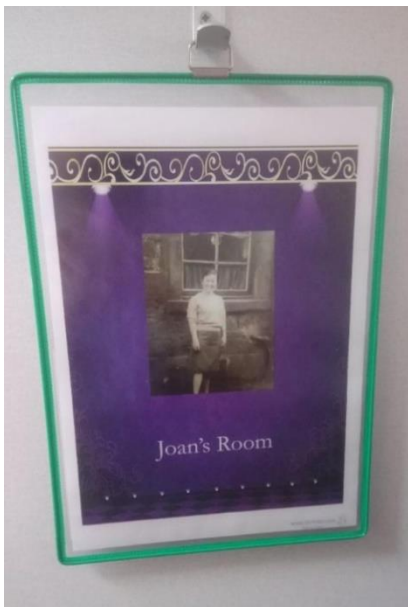
### Hospitals

#### Bolton NHS Foundation Trust



Our UK Project Lead Tommy Whitelaw recently visited Bolton NHS Foundation Trust to hear how they had turned their previous pledges into actions. The Trust have launched a new 'Endeavour Tree,' which was donated to Ward B1 by a family. Ward D2 have also recently opened a new overnight room so that carers can support their loved ones. And pet therapy is also now available, with visits from Sydney the PAT dog.

#### Wexham Park Hospital



Joan's Room was officially opened on the 21<sup>st</sup> May in Wexham Park Hospital. The hospital's new dementia friendly lounge has been named after our UK Lead Tommy Whitelaw's mum Joan. Tommy told us that:

'It was a brilliant day. Thanks to everyone who has had a part in it. We know how valuable this room will be as a quiet escape for people living with dementia.'

I would like to thank everyone for their kindness today, and for their dedication and great work to create a reflective space for families and staff to have meaningful 'What Matters to You?' conversations and engage in values based reflective practice. Thank you from a son.'

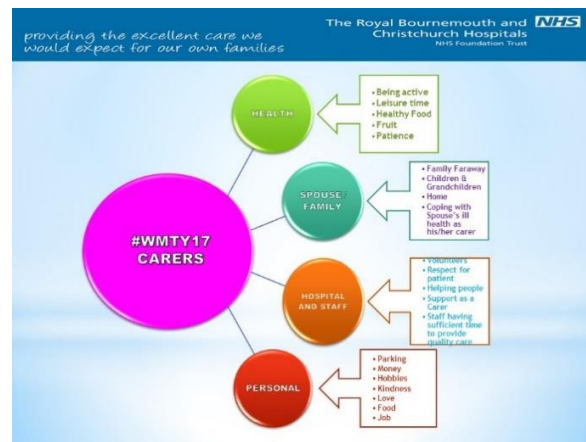
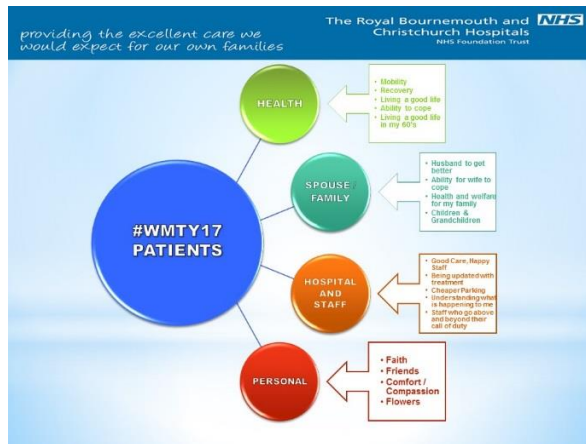
The dementia friendly lounge is designed to bring some reassurance, improve patient experience and support quality of life. It will provide a reflective place outside of the clinical environment, which we know from studies supports people, families and staff to have a better experience.

You can see pictures of the opening of Joan's Room on our [website](#).

# Pledge Case Studies

## Royal Bournemouth Hospital

Our UK Lead Tommy Whitelaw was invited by BJ Waltho to speak at Royal Bournemouth Hospital in March 2017. BJ had heard Tommy speak at the RCN Congress in Glasgow in 2016 and made a pledge to have Tommy speak to staff at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital. Following Tommy's talk, staff engaged in values based reflective practice, reviewed their practices and discussed how they can include the people for whom they care and their families in their care. Tommy's presentation focused on the 'What Matters to you?' principles and as a result staff went out to find out what mattered to their staff, people receiving care and their carers. They created [a film](#) about this and collected their findings in the below slides.



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### All that matters... is love

Recently we celebrated 'What Matters To You Day', asking you and our patients what really matters. A week later, one of our patients, Colin Thomas, needed us to listen to what mattered to him and our fantastic AMU Team rose to the challenge. A few days after being admitted, Colin deteriorated and it became clear he was nearing the end of his life.

After the news was explained to him, Colin spoke to Chris Bruce, deputy clinical leader, and expressed his wish to marry his partner of 30 years, Rosemary. Chris arranged for the chaplain to visit and they arranged to perform a wedding the next day.

Overnight, Mini Thomas, deputy clinical leader, found Colin's condition was worsening and with the help of night coordinator Lorrie Lee, an on-call chaplain and registrar were called in and Colin's family were informed. At 10.30pm Chris Bailey, ward clerk, went to Tesco and bought a cake, flowers and a card. The ward team got Colin ready and the ceremony was performed that evening, with Remelyn Brams, healthcare assistant, kindly offering up her

ring for Colin to give to Rosemary.

Mini described the experience as "one of the most unforgettable moments in my nursing life". The impromptu wedding was a true example of caring for the whole person and our AMU Team pulled together and truly went above and beyond to fulfill Colin's last wish.

Although Colin sadly passed away the next morning, his last hours were all about love - celebrating the love he shared with Rosemary and the love of our incredible staff who made it possible for him to do so.



You can also read the moving and inspirational story of Colin who was able to marry in the last days of his life as a result of those caring for him switching the conversation from "what's the matter with you?" to "what matters to you?"

### Colchester Hospital

Tommy has been invited to give several talks at Colchester Hospital – three talks in [February](#) and two talks in [July 2017](#). In the initial talks in February, Tommy received pledges from the nurses at the Hospital and was invited back in July for the unveiling of the "Dementia Care Pledge Tree" which was painted by A-Level student, Lara Wallington at Colchester Sixth Form College.

The beautiful tree stands 8 feet tall in the foyer of Surgical Assessment Unit (SAU) in the Main Building of Colchester General Hospital. It is being filled with the personal pledges of staff at the hospital have made. The first talk was with the hospital dementia champions and then to doctors with staff from many areas and roles then they were invited to add paper leaves on where they wrote a pledge about what they will do to make a difference to the lives of people with dementia and their carers. Having the pledges visible in the foyer allows the staff to return to the pledge tree and reflect on the pledges they have made. Colchester Daily Gazette also covered the story and you can read about it [here](#).



## Pledge Case Studies

### NHS Ayrshire and Arran

[NHS Ayrshire and Arran](#) have shown their commitment to the 'You Can Make a Difference' campaign in a variety of ways. The work began when UK Lead, Tommy Whitelaw was invited by the Chief Executive to give a 'Make a Difference' talk in a formal Board meeting. The Board were then invited to start off the process of making a pledge of one thing they would personally do as a Board member to make a difference.



The talks were then given to staff throughout the health board in Kilmarnock and Ayr. Several hundred pledges were gathered as a result, which have been mapped against the 10 key action points for hospitals to give meaning and context to each. They have also been used to create pledge trees which are being displayed throughout the hospital in staff canteens which are also open to the public.

Furthermore, NHS Ayrshire and Arran [has made a film](#) in partnership with the ALLIANCE and the University of the West of Scotland which shares the journey of the campaign and the impact it has had on the staff.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran are currently working with staff to find out staff's progress with their pledges, the difference they have made and offering support for staff to fulfil their pledges.

### Combined NHS

At the [Combined NHS](#) Conference this year the pledge work was part of the morning session. Then in the afternoon they were invited to a café style conversation about launching pledge trees and putting pledges into practice. Initially 25 teams across the trust have taken up the initiative.



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### Morecambe Bay



The team at University Hospitals of [Morecambe Bay](#) NHS Foundation Trust really engaged with the Make a Difference message, and asked staff to reflect on their practice the week before attending a talk. A total of 32 pledge trees had been traveling around the trust in the lead up to the talk, generating 640 organisational and personal pledges. The trees will now be displayed around the trust as a form of values based reflective practice in the hopes of inspiring others.

## Universities

### University of the West of Scotland

The campaign has been invited to reach different cohorts of students in Ayr, Dumfries, Hamilton, Paisley on a yearly basis, helping to ensure that the next generation of health and social care professionals know the value of lived experience and have a greater understanding of the carer journey, helping to promote person centred care through values based reflection. We recently attended the unveiling of UWS Ayr Campus' new pledge tree, which will give students and staff the opportunity to reflect on what they can do to make a difference for people living with dementia. The tree was designed by UWS Digital Art graduate Michelle Logan who donated her skill, craft and time, whilst the wood was provided by Hope Homes.



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### Colleges

#### West Lothian College



West Lothian College have launched a permanent pledge wall and tree for students to contribute to, making the 'You Can Make a Difference' campaign a part of the curriculum. This will allow students and staff to support each other to have values based reflective practice, and continue to base their teaching and learning experience around their pledges.

### Care Homes

#### Hatton Lea Care Home

Hatton Lea is one of the chosen site for Specialist Dementia Units in Scotland. The staff launched a pledge tree and have monthly meetings around them to start the conversations.

You can read more from the care home press release in the [Motherwell Times](#).



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### Raith Gates Home

Teresa Easdale, Senior Social Care Worker Fife Council organised an awareness event for staff from 10 care homes from across the Fife area. The event was fantastic, and we received amazing comments and pledges from people who attended. The response from Elaine Siggers, Unit Manager at Raith Gates Home was fantastic - Elaine put together a pledge tree where we received some beautiful comments and pledges.



#### Some of the comments from staff:

"I found the talk very moving, and it made me re think about my work practice"  
"I felt very emotional whilst writing my pledge about what I could do to make a difference for someone living with Dementia"  
"Thought provoking"  
"The most inspirational talk I have heard"

### Care at Home Teams

#### Carewatch

UK Lead Tommy Whitelaw visited Livingston home care team staff on the 14 April 2016, after being invited back to speak to a new cohort of staff.



The You Can Make a Difference campaign was used as part of the training package delivered to new home care staff. Inspired by carers' experiences, Livingston Care Home staff created their own permanent pledge tree to remind staff of their commitment and encourage values based reflection. Children from the local school were invited to take part in creating the tree by designing

and painting the flowers, demonstrating how our campaign reaches the entire community embedding the message that everyone can make a difference to the lives of someone with dementia, their family, and carers. We look forward to watching their pledge tree grow, and for their sister sites to create their own trees in Stirling.

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### Housing

#### Glasgow Housing Association



As part of What matters to you day we worked in partnership with the What matters to you team and [Glasgow Housing Association](#). A tree was launched in the main entrance to the housing office, encouraging residents and staff to share What matters to them and how they will make a difference.

### Communities

#### Pollok Community Pledge

In partnership with Glasgow Clyde College and Humza Yousaf MSP, Minister for Transport and Islands, Dementia Carer Voices launched a community pledge in Pollok, giving constituents the chance to reach out to their neighbours and help reduce isolation and loneliness.



UK Lead, Tommy Whitelaw is a life-long constituent of Pollok, where he was born and later returned to care for his late mum Joan. From the success of our You Can Make a Difference campaign, the team wanted to extend the invitation to the community to make a pledge to the whole community of Pollok, not just to people living with dementia and their carers, but to their neighbours and wider community.



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Chaired by Director Irene Oldfather, the event celebrated pledges made by students at the [Glasgow Clyde College](#), introduced participants to their local link worker, and the community assets currently mapped on ALISS.

The team were also asked to talk about the community pledge on the [John Beattie show](#) on Radio Scotland.

## Social Work

### Northern Trust (NHSCT) Northern Ireland, for Social Workers



A 'Roots to Effective Practice' Workshop was held on 9 September 2016 in the Northern Trust (NHSCT) Northern Ireland, for Social Workers who recently completed their Assessed Year in Practice. Social Workers examined the Reflective Practice Model to inform evidence and value based practice, listened to the messages from Tommy Whitelaw and pledged what they will do differently in their practice to promote positive outcomes for service users/carers.

Pictured are Workshop Organisers Caroline McGonigle, Social Care Governance Manager, NHSCT; Sonya McGuckin Learning and Development Officer, Social Services Training Department, NHSCT with Tommy Whitelaw BCAh , UK Lead, Dementia Carer Voices.

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### Hospices

#### **Anam Cara, North Ayrshire**

The Make a Difference campaign has been taken forward by many individuals who have shared the campaign and actively encouraged others to do so. Claire Mills, who is the manager of Anam Cara Dementia Respite Services organised an incredible day to inspire people to make a pledge to make a difference.

They hosted an afternoon tea session where Tommy gave an awareness talk, followed by a question and answer session where people had a chance to ask questions but in a more relaxed and informal setting. To make room for their adapted housing, the centre had to have cherry trees cut down, and have hired a woodcarver to make a huge jigsaw spelling out Anam Cara with each letter made up of engraved pledges using the wood from these trees, celebrating their commitment to making a difference and encouraging people to participate.



In February 2016 UK Lead, Tommy, was invited back to unveil the permanent pledge tree wall at the respite service. It is great to see the impact of our 'You Can Make a Difference' campaign and that services such as Anam Cara have adopted the principles that everyone can make a difference to a person with dementia, their family, and carers.

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### Emergency Services

#### Scottish Ambulance Service

The Scottish Ambulance Service have been fantastic ambassadors, taking forward the message of listening to and learning from the voice of lived experience and committing to making a positive difference.

Pauline Howie CEO and Victoria Burnhan, Head of Practice Education & Development at the Scottish Ambulance Service invited the team to give a live Make a Difference webcast to staff across Scotland. This kick-started the new partnership, with Tommy giving awareness talks to staff on a joint tour the following week. This was further complemented by the creation of a new pledge tree to be located at the Scottish Ambulance Service Glasgow Caledonian University, where people will add their pledges and see them every day they go to class, reminding them of their commitment and the inspiration behind them.



### Individual

#### Ffion's Pledge Trees



After attending one of our You Can Make a Difference talks Jules Lewis, End of Life Care Facilitator in Shropshire, took the key message home to her family which inspired her 9-year-old daughter Ffion to make pledge trees for staff at Shropshire hospital.

Ffion was then invited to share with her class the key messages behind the pledge tree and was later asked to give a talk at her school assembly.

This story is particularly powerful as it demonstrates the impact that sharing the voice of lived experience can have.

Ffion's hard work emphasises the translatable nature of the project, engaging with health and social care professionals to young people, meaning our campaign promotes a culture change not only in healthcare but society at large.

With help from her mum, Ffion put together a guest blog piece:

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'On 7 March 2016 I talked to the children and teachers at my school in our school assembly, I told them about your work, your lovey mum and your #Tommyontour. I also showed them one for my personalised dementia pledge trees. I have been making these pledge trees for my mummy's work friends I make a different one for each person, I put their name on it and I do my signature, the person then writes their own pledge on the tree. I hope my trees make a difference to people who live with dementia.'

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### **Inspired?**

There are so many ways to make a positive difference in the lives of others, but we hope that these have inspired you by showing some of the ways people have taken the campaign forward in order to improve the lives of people living with dementia, their families and carers.

The message of the campaign is simple and can be embedded anywhere, from cities to rural areas; from boardroom to bedside. We can make a difference.

### **For further information on the project, please contact:**

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**For regular updates, please visit the Dementia Carer Voices website at**  
<https://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/people-and-networks/dementia-carer-voices/>

## **Pledge Case Studies**

### **About Dementia Carer Voices**

Dementia Carer Voices seeks to:

- Highlight the importance of family carers being enabled after diagnosis to build and sustain a network of support, preventing crisis situations and feel enabled to ask for additional help when it is needed;
- Capture the experiences of carers across Scotland with a view to informing future policy and service provision;
- Raise awareness of the issues around caring for someone with dementia including among health and social care students;
- Empower carers by providing information based on the Charter of Rights and Carer Strategy about caring for someone with dementia;
- Highlight the role of Carers as natural resources; Carers as people with needs; Carers as people with independent lives;
- Work with other Carer Organisations and key stakeholders within and beyond the ALLIANCE's network to ensure that relevant strategies are well informed by the views of service users.
- Harness the work undertaken to date by the Tommy on Tour campaign, and support Tommy Whitelaw to undertake further outreach work to carer organisations across Scotland.

### **About the ALLIANCE**

The ALLIANCE has three core aims; we seek to:

- Ensure people are at the centre, that their voices, expertise and rights drive policy and sit at the heart of design, delivery and improvement of support and services.
- Support transformational change, towards approaches that work with individual and community assets, helping people to stay well, supporting human rights, self management, co-production and independent living.
- Champion and support the third sector as a vital strategic and delivery partner and foster better cross-sector understanding and partnership.