

## CASE STUDY

### A day to make a difference for people with dementia



## The background

The dementia group meets in Armley Grange House five days a week and use a listed building built in 1801 as a mill owner's residence. The centre had peeling paint work, bland walls and an overgrown garden; not good for anyone's health, let alone young people with dementia and their carers.

The ground floor of the building provides day support to 15 people under the age of 65 every day. The community service supports another 22 younger people with dementia, giving them access to meaningful activities in the local community, social interaction, friendship, information and support.

Staff from the Yorkshire and Humber Commissioning Support (YHCS) work across Leeds to support the Leeds Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) – NHS Leeds West CCG, NHS Leeds South and East CCG and NHS Leeds North CCG. Staff from each organisation teamed up and took a day out of their normal routine to give the day centre a facelift.

## The detail

A team of ten staff rolled up their sleeves and carried out painting, gardening, and whatever else they could manage in a day to make the building brighter, safer and more stimulating. The team appealed for donations of materials such as paint and brushes, plants or pictures for the walls or money to buy materials to carry out the work. They also appealed for local people who could help on the day or provide lunch for the workers.

Prior to the event Samantha Jenkinson, Home and Day Support Manager for the Alzheimer's Society in Leeds said:

“ We are proud of our service and we want the environment to be homely, stimulating and safe, a place where people feel happy and valued. Giving the facilities a makeover will help our services users achieve wellbeing, independent living and the dignity they deserve. ”

Fundraising for the project was also carried out in NHS Leeds South and East buildings in Thorpe Park this consisted of a cake sale and a dress down day where staff paid for the privilege of spending the day at work in their onesies!

## The results

The team raised funds which paid towards the materials needed and made measurable improvements to the internal environment of Armley Grange House.



At the end of a hard day's work the team held a special tea party with the service users to show them the transformation.

Linzi Kendall, the sustainability lead at YHCS explained:

“ It's important for the CSU to be involved with our local communities, as we're committed to being a socially responsible employer, and we have planned a series of community challenges to try to give something back to local people. It's great that we worked together on this project with our colleagues at Leeds West, Leeds North and Leeds South and East CCGs, especially on such a valuable resource for people who we know can be isolated because of their dementia. This underlines how important the communities are to the NHS, and how we can help to build resilience within them. ”

The project was a joint partnership with YHCS, Leeds CCGs and Business in the Community: a charity which engages with businesses to allow staff to volunteer to donate time and skills during work hours to tackle local social issues. The charity provides opportunities to allow business to invest in local people and their communities.

