



HAPPI HOUR

APPG RECOMMENDATION 35: UPDATE

Ruth Eley, Chair Together in Dementia Everyday

WHAT DOES RECOMMENDATION 35 SAY?

We recommend that providers of housing for older people in the private and social sectors appoint dementia 'champions' at executive / senior management / board level, in general needs social and specialist housing bodies, to demonstrate organisational commitment and ensure effective leadership at the highest level.



WHAT HAS THE DHWVG DONE?

- Task and Finish group to draft a spec for Champions at Board level
- Consulted some of our members
- Final version approved this morning



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

- The primary role of the Board Champion is to provide leadership that helps the organisation to find ways of improving its housing and services to people with dementia and their carers
- Housing refers to mainstream and specialist housing, whether operated by social housing providers, the third or private sector
- Not dementia experts but will have a basic understanding about the condition and its impact
- Committed to helping the Board improve services for current and prospective residents with dementia and their families



How will they fulfil the role?

- Be accountable for the Board's dementia strategy or plan – and promote the need if none exists
- Keep up to date
- Be familiar with acceptable language and terminology
- Be prepared to challenge
- Be familiar with a rights-based approach
- Be alert to safeguarding matters
- Adopt an approach of 'What does this mean for our residents with dementia and their carers?'
- Provide an annual report to the board summarising progress and gaps



WHAT NEXT?

- Champions spec will be available on our padlet
- Will be promoting it widely
- We want feedback on its usefulness and effectiveness

