Briefing for Cllr Stamiorwski for the Catford South Local Assembly Meeting on the 4th March 2017:

* The Lewisham Dementia Action Alliance was formally launched in May 2015 to act as our local vehicle to become a more dementia friendly community. Dementia Friendly Communities are defined by Alzheimer’s Society as a community ‘in which people with dementia are empowered to have aspirations and feel confident, knowing they can contribute and participate in activities that are meaningful to them’.
* In February 2016 the Local Assembly in Catford South decided that the ward will become the first ward in Lewisham to be working with the Lewisham Dementia Action Alliance to become more dementia-friendly. As Catford South has more people living with dementia than any other ward in the borough it was a topic that is very close to the heart of members of the local assembly.
* As part of becoming dementia-friendly we were hoping to increase awareness within our ward for dementia and therefore strengthen our community resilience. As a result of this initiative it is anticipated that people living with dementia and their carers will be enabled to have an improved quality of life and continue to remain active members of their community.
* In June 2016 Catford South and Lewisham was formally accredited by Alzheimer’s Society as working towards dementia friendly community status, something that makes us incredibly proud.
* Over the last year Catford South as a community as well as the individual assembly members have done an incredible piece of work to become more dementia-friendly. We now have a number of dementia friend champions in the ward who regularly offer awareness raising sessions for anyone who would like to learn a bit more about dementia. We have groups and activities now in the ward that are suitable for people with dementia as well as some dementia specific activities. Organisations are reviewing the layout of their premises to make them more dementia friendly as well as helping the Lewisham Dementia Action Alliance to spread the word around the benefits of becoming a part of the dementia friendly community.
* Today, on behalf of the People living with Dementia in Lewisham and the Lewisham Dementia Action Alliance we would like to celebrate Catford South working very hard towards becoming a dementia friendly community and thank you for all your hard work over the last year.
* We are looking forward to continue to be working with you over the next year and are hoping that we can share our good news story with the other wards in Lewisham to follow us on the journey for Lewisham as whole to become dementia-friendly.