

BRIEFING NOTE FOR PARTNERS

Guardian Angels/ Dementia Buddies scheme

What are Guardian Angels/Dementia Buddies?

There are currently over 10,000 people in Lancashire who have been diagnosed with dementia and the figure is expected to rise by 55% by 2030. Getting lost and feeling disorientated is cited as a common problem which causes much distress for the person with dementia and their families and currently costs the NHS and Police around £420k across Lancashire each year to ensure the person is returned safely home.

The Good Deeds Trust has developed a solution in the form of 'Guardian Angel' devices including a badge, wristband, bag-tag or keyring. These devices are Near Field Communication (NFC) smartphone enabled and so by simply tapping a phone over the device, the person's first name & emergency contact number will be displayed. The scheme is currently in operation in Wigan. The cost is £5 per device to cover manufacturing costs and administration of the scheme.



Why are we introducing the scheme in Lancashire?

Working with partners, we want to introduce the Guardian Angel/ Dementia Buddies scheme to Lancashire from 20 June in order to safeguard people with dementia and provide reassurance to carers and their families. This will also help those with dementia stay as independent as possible for longer and reduce the cost of identifying people who are found lost to the Police and NHS.

Who needs to know about Guardian Angels/Dementia Buddies?

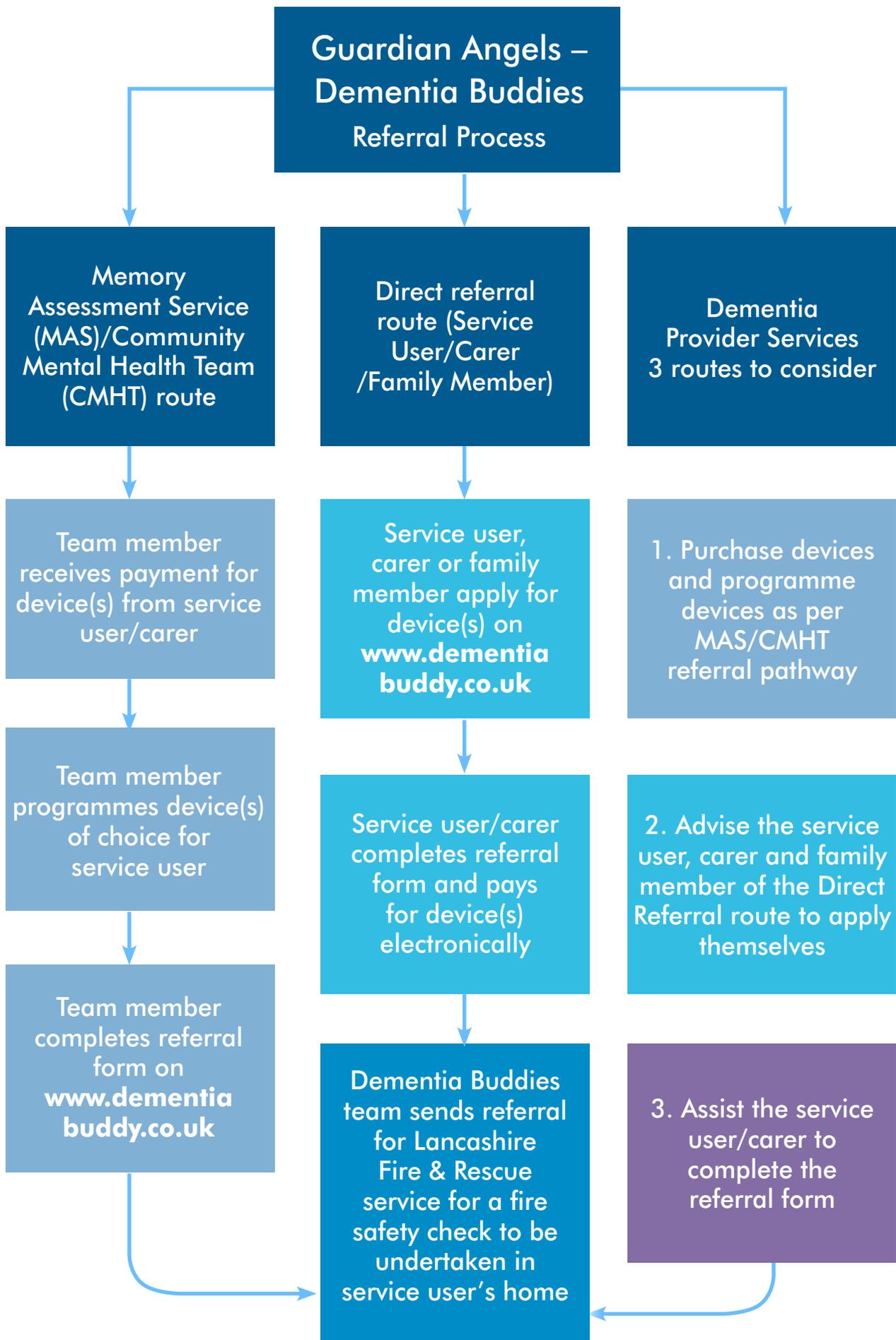
The devices are aimed at anyone who has been diagnosed with dementia and so we will need to inform them and their carers about Guardian Angels/Dementia Buddies. For those newly diagnosed with dementia, we will be working with all relevant professionals e.g. Memory Assessment Teams, Community Mental Health Teams, Dementia Advisors and all dementia provider services to encourage people to sign up for a device at the earliest stage to avoid problems later on. For those previously diagnosed, we will be working with dementia support services across Lancashire to get information about the scheme to them.

Services who may deal with people who are lost or disorientated also need to be able to recognise the devices and know how to use them in order to easily locate a name and emergency contact number. This includes the police, A&E, NHS trusts, the fire and rescue service and community safety organisations. When there has been a significant uptake of Guardian Angels/Dementia Buddies in Lancashire, we will then have a second phase of raising awareness about the devices to the general public. This will enable people to understand how they work and what they can do to help if someone is in need.

How people can get a device

The scheme will be administered by the Good Deeds Trust in Wigan who will send out the devices on the completion of a referral form and £5 payment if the service user/carer wishes to obtain the device by themselves. There are also arrangements in place for the Memory Assessment Service, Community Mental Health Teams together with a range of dementia provider services who can programme and provide the devices directly to the service user.





What we need from you

Police

Frontline staff need to be briefed on Guardian Angels/Dementia Buddies so they can recognise the devices and understand how they work. All Police personnel currently have mobile phones connected to NFC.

Memory Assessment Services (MAS) Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs) and Dementia Provider Services

All teams who provide the above services in Lancashire will advise service users and carers on the different referral processes to obtain the devices. Programme telephones and Posters will be ready for the roll out of the scheme on 16 June 2016 after staff have received the training on how to programme the devices. Staff who work with service users need to be briefed so that they can introduce the scheme at an appropriate time and assist with the form if necessary.

Other services working with people with dementia

There are many other organisations who provide services and support for people with dementia. Posters will be distributed to these services to promote the scheme.

How are we promoting Guardian Angels/Dementia Buddies to users?

Partner organisations are being briefed about the scheme and posters are being distributed to relevant services who work directly with those with dementia. Other promotion includes media relations and social media activity around the launch of 16 June and new information on the public health pages of the website -<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/your-health-and-wellbeing/dementia>

How will we measure the effectiveness?

We will monitor the take up of the scheme through the number of devices sold and keep partner organisations informed later in the year.

Launch date – 20 June 2016. Guardian Angel/ Dementia Buddies will be included and promoted at all relevant opportunities.



Are you worried about a loved one with Dementia wandering?

New Guardian Angels/Dementia Buddies can be worn to identify your loved one using a smart phone so they can be returned home safely.

Visit www.dementiabuddy.co.uk or call **01942 888990**



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