The group was welcomed by Rose and Mark from Quarriers Person Centred Planning Service, who were facilitating the discussion.

What is working just now?

Some of the things that people said are working:
- Support workers/carers groups/outreach workers from Alzheimer’s are good.
- There is good relationships between different organisations
- Direct payments will be useful
- Someone said the day hospital was good, but it was the only respite she got.

What is not working?

- There is muddled planning and allocating of resources
- The age cut off at 65 is arbitrary
- Peoples friends/networks are not supported/included/maximised in their support
- Lack of consistency in services
- Lack of appropriate resources/day centres
- Lack of knowledge amongst/support for GP’s who are often the first point of contact for people

What is the DREAM service?
- A diagnosis would not the end of someone’s life
- A specialist multi disciplinary team that was city wide
- Appropriate day services /supported living
- PERSONALISED services centred around each person
- People using direct payments to buy the service they want
- Doctor’s listening to carers and taking their information seriously
- An electronic referral system like “DESMOND”
- Respite at home
- Case managers assigned at an early stage to oversee the whole process and make it smooth
- A combined NHS and Social Work service
- NO STIGMA
- “Early support from diagnosis”

How will we know it’s getting better? What will things look like in 18 months?
• A “DESMOND” network has been set up
• People are accessing Direct Payments
• Consistent pathways into referrals
• Clearer planning structure for younger people’s services – less muddle
• Counselling services available at diagnosis
• Better information available
• Awareness of Alzheimer’s is raised – positive images of it

First steps and last words.

Facilitated by:

Quarriers
Caring and support for positive living