

Finalists in the Dementia Awards



L-R: Denise Hylton-Mackintosh, Polly Hird, Ann Aldous-Dunn and Angela Brown

Towards the end of 2015 Polly Hird - Matron Department of Ageing & Health, Denise Hylton-Mackintosh - Senior Sister Ebony Ward, Angela Brown - Dementia Specialist Practitioner and Ann Aldous-Dunn - Dementia Buddy Scheme Co-ordinator represented Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust at the 6th National Dementia Awards ceremony held in Birmingham. Darent Valley Hospital was named as a finalist in the category "Dementia Friendly Hospital". Angela Brown said *"to be selected as a finalist was a great honour and although we did not win, we are extremely proud of the recognition our hospital received."*

To be considered "Dementia Friendly" the Trust needed to evidence not only a physical environment that promotes independence such as pictorial signage and daily activities, but also clinical leadership to support early

identification and treatment, staff training, dementia policies and most of all an ethos of inclusion trust wide.

Teamwork is key in creating a dementia friendly environments. Denise, Polly, Ann and Angela would like to thank all of our dedicated staff for going that "extra mile" in providing better care and dementia awareness for patients and their families, especially those who require extra support and understanding. Thanks also to the finance and procurement teams, Carillion and Estates, Carersfirst, Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Services, and all our partner organisations who make an essential contribution to the achievements.

Well done everyone for all your hard work and dedication in achieving finalist status and for aspiring to make us one of the best.