



Confiding in Doctor Led to Support

June's Story:

Derek and June had been married for many years and were living in sheltered accommodation. They were both in their late 80s and had three daughters all of whom lived a long way from home. Carers visited the flat every day to help with their personal care and transport was provided twice weekly to take them to and from a local day centre where they joined in organised activities.

June suffered from mild dementia but was a very sociable old lady and the carers got to know her very well. She had been a dinner lady at school for many years and liked to talk about her experiences as a younger woman. As the weeks went by the carers noticed that June's behaviour began to change and were quite concerned that something was wrong. They in turn reported this to their manager who made a referral to Age Concern.

Age Concern arranged a doctor's appointment for June and she disclosed that she had been suffering physical abuse from her husband. She had been getting very forgetful because of her dementia and this in turn had been irritating her husband who had begun to lash out at her. Age Concern supported June for 8 weeks.

A referral was then made to Hafan Cymru and an agreement was made to offer June Floating Support. The responsibility of daily living and reduced mobility and illness had taken its toll on both Derek and June. The eldest daughter was contacted, with June's permission and made aware of the situation and she also stepped in to help her parents.

With regular support and understanding, June's relationship with her husband improved. A representative was organised from 'Dementia Awareness' who visited the home to improve their knowledge and understanding of the condition. Power of Attorney was organised so that the daughter could take on the responsibility of the financial issues/bill paying etc. June was referred to the Befriending Service that is offered in the local community for the elderly and now has a weekly chat with a trained volunteer. A referral to the outreach library service was arranged and they call at the house every fortnight.

June accepted support from Hafan Cymru for three months.