



BUTTERFLY SCHEME **INFORMATION FOR** **PATIENTS & CARERS**

The Butterfly Scheme helps people who are in member hospitals (or, in some areas, receiving community healthcare) and who find it hard to remember everything that's going on.

The scheme, which was created by - and is led by - a family carer, teaches staff how to help people who need memory support whilst they're in hospital.

If you haven't been offered the scheme and feel it might help, please ask a member of staff about it; patients, their families or carers can request it. If in doubt, ask for the Matron for Elderly Care or the Dementia Lead.

The Butterfly Scheme was originally designed to help people with dementia, but it also supports anyone whose memory is simply less reliable than it used to be, or whose memory is less good than usual because of illness. The staff will know the specific reason why you're using the scheme, but the key aim is to provide all users with appropriate memory support.

When someone has opted into the scheme, a Butterfly symbol will be placed next to their name. This prompts all staff to follow a special response plan which aims to insightfully:

- reassure the patient
- avoid taking the patient by surprise
- adapt placement of important objects to support clear access
- support hand hygiene
- support hydration
- clarify medical history
- ensure instructions and key information are placed with someone who can support their use

Carers will also be asked to fill in a carer sheet, so that the valuable insight they have into their loved one's care needs can be shared with the staff who are taking over that care during a hospital stay. Most Butterfly Scheme hospitals welcome carers at any time; please ask on the ward if this hasn't already been mentioned.