

9 December 2008

“GET IT ON TIME”

Twelve members of the Fife Branch of the Parkinson’s Disease Society (PDS) took their campaign to get medication on time in hospital to the Scottish Parliament.

Twelve members of the Fife Branch of the Parkinson’s Disease Society PDS members from throughout the Kingdom met Dunfermline West MSP Jim Tolson along with other local MSPs at an event to highlight how important it is for people with Parkinson’s to receive their medication on time, every time, when they are in hospital.

If a person with Parkinson’s doesn’t get their medication on time, the balance of chemicals in their brains can become severely disrupted – leading to the symptoms including being unable to move, speak, eat or swallow, uncontrolled movements and hallucinations. It can take weeks to restore effective symptom control. Yet many people with Parkinson’s are not being given their medication on time when they are in hospital. Some even have their medicines confiscated.

Jean Ballantyne from the Fife Branch said “People with Parkinson’s in Fife know how terrifying it can be when accurate medication is not given on time, because so many of us have experienced this over the years. Anxiety about going into hospital casts a long shadow over people with Parkinson’s and their families, which is why we came to the Parliament.

Our message is that listening to people with Parkinson’s and their families is crucial. Simple measures like allowing people to administer their own drugs, or using pill timers on the wards can make all the difference.”

Jim Tolson MSP for Dunfermline West commented “It was very helpful to hear from local people affected by Parkinson’s about why getting medication on time is so important. I was astonished to learn how common it is for people not to get the medication they need when they need it. This campaign is vital for all local people who are affected by Parkinson’s. I will do all I can to support it and have written to NHS Fife to find out what is being done to improve knowledge of Parkinson’s disease for nursing and other staff.”

Ends