

## Working with Police Scotland to help people live safely with dementia

SDWG members are always keen to learn about and support initiatives that help people to live well and safely with dementia and support people caring for someone with dementia. Whether it's policy or practice; research or technology we want to ensure that our lived experience can help change things for the better. We were pleased to have the opportunity of meeting recently with Alzheimer Scotland's Purple Alert Coordinator, Tommy Petillo, and Police Scotland Community Engagement Officer in Argyll & Bute, PC Laura Evans, to find out more about Purple Alert; The Herbert Protocol; and the Dementia Safeguarding Tag.



This meeting came about following contact that SDWG member, Tony Worthington, had with Police Scotland at Alzheimer Scotland's 2022 Annual Conference.

Purple Alert is a free, community minded, mobile app which sends an alert to the community when someone with dementia is missing in their area. There are already over 4,000 people across Scotland registered on the app, which has been used successfully to help resolve several missing incidents.

The more people using the app across Scotland, the greater the impact it will have. [Find out more about Purple Alert](#)



Looking out for you

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Herbert Protocol allows families of a person with dementia to provide information to Police Scotland about their loved one, such as places of importance to them and often visited places, to help the police and other agencies quickly and safely locate the missing person. The protocol can work alongside Purple Alert, and has been used many times since its launch to help trace missing people with dementia and return them home.

[Find out more about The Herbert Protocol](#)

Dementia Safeguarding Tag is a scheme currently running in Argyll and Bute and due to be launched across West Dunbartonshire. The tag has been designed by people with lived experience of dementia and uses Near Field Communication (NFC) to allow it to communicate with a mobile phone to provide basic information to identify the tag holder and help to return them home should a member of the public find them appearing lost, confused or disorientated within their local community.

[Find out more about the Dementia Safeguarding Tag](#)



SDWG members welcome these initiatives as part of a suite of measures that can support people living with dementia, and we are keen to promote their increased use. We would encourage people across Scotland to sign up to Purple Alert; urge families to make use of the Herbert Protocol initiative; and, hope that the Dementia Safeguarding Tag can be introduced across the whole of Scotland.