DEMCOM: National Evaluation of Dementia-Friendly Communities
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DEMCOM: collaboration between 3 universities – Hertfordshire, Cambridge, East Anglia - that are part of the Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) East of England

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A Dementia Friendly Community (DFC) can involve a wide range of people, organisations and geographical areas. A DFC recognises that a person with dementia is more than their diagnosis and that everyone has a role to play in supporting their independence and inclusion.

The Prime Minister’s Challenge on Dementia 2020 identifies Dementia Friendly Communities (DFCs) as one way by which people living with dementia can remain active, engaged and valued members of society.

Evaluation of DFCs to date has largely focused on process of becoming a DFC and perceived benefits

Aims

1 To understand what makes a community dementia friendly and how this can be sustained
2 To arrive at a way of measuring dementia friendliness
3 To identify factors and preconditions for DFCs that produce positive outcomes for people living with dementia and their carers
4 To clarify resources needed and economic benefits of creating and sustaining DFCs

Objectives

1 To arrive at an evidence-based evaluation framework for DFCs
2 To identify factors and preconditions for DFCs that produce positive outcomes for people living with dementia and their carers
3 To clarify resources needed and economic benefits of creating and sustaining DFCs

Piloting of evaluation tool

- Apply evaluation tool developed for Age-Friendly Cities in 2 pilot DFCs (Peterborough; Sheffield)
- Convert tool into dementia-specific evaluation instrument and pilot-test this
- Arrive at detailed understanding of pilot sites

Case studies

- Apply the refined tool to 3-4 further DFCs
- Economic analysis, quantify benefits of DFCs

Mapping DFC provision (England)

- Categorise DFCs (focus, location, impact)
- Narrative overview of DFCs & key characteristics
- Map of DFCs in relation to dementia prevalence

Phase I (months 1-6)

Phase II (months 3-12)

Phase III (months 12-30)

Key outputs

1 Adaptable evaluation tool specific to Dementia Friendly Communities
2 Enables recording, synthesis and visualisation of data

Patient & Public Involvement (PPI)

Study steering group
2-3 PPI contributors
Advise on strategic direction of study

Research Management Team
2 PPI contributors/meeting
Comment on aspects of study

Experts by Experience
Groups of 3-4 PLWD/carers
Comment on research documents

Steering groups in pilot & case study sites
2-3 PPI contributors, incl. PLWD/carers
Contribute local knowledge

Co-researchers in pilot & case study sites
Small no of PLWD in each site
Support data collection

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