

QUICK UPDATES

Alzheimer Café Coordinator:

The NDO awarded the tender for a National Alzheimer Café Coordinator to Engaging Dementia earlier in the summer. This initiative is part of our broader dementia post-diagnostic support project and is funded through Dormant Accounts. We are looking forward to working with Engaging Dementia to identify a shared and common approach for Alzheimer Cafés in Ireland; supporting existing cafes and working with communities who are interested in establishing and running new café's.

Consultation with people living with dementia:

In the spring, NDO staff met with the Eastern, Western and Southern Irish Dementia Working Groups and the Eastern and Southern Dementia Carers Campaign Network. Engaging with people living with dementia and family carers is an important part of our work and we greatly appreciated the time people gave to meet with us.

Bloom Garden:

This year the *Dementia: Understand Together* garden at Bord Bia's Bloom focused on stimulating reminiscence and rekindling fond memories from childhood gardens. The garden won a silver gilt award and following an open competition is relocating to St. Ita's Community Hospital in Newcastle West, Limerick where it will be used and enjoyed by people living with dementia and by the local community.



Bloom garden event 2019
l-r: Billy Burke, Paul Reid, Robert Moore, Roisin Guiry and Mary Manning

Post-diagnostic Grant Scheme:

To support those delivering interventions as part of the dementia post-diagnostic grant scheme, we held a learning and sharing event in April and a session on building a business case in June. The evaluation of the grant scheme which focused on the delivery of Cognitive Stimulation and Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy and Psycho-Education programmes, is on-going and preliminary findings will be available towards the end of the year.

Dementia Acute Hospital Pathway:

The NDO is leading a working group to develop overarching principles, along with pathway templates for acute hospitals to adapt locally. These will guide the care of people living with dementia in Emergency Departments or on acute wards. Key areas of focus are recognising a person with undiagnosed dementia, preventing and investigating delirium (acute confusion due to illness/ hospitalisation), and appropriate follow-up in the community.

Acute Hospital Learning and Networking events:

These events bring together a range of acute hospital dementia champions from different hospitals, to share experiences in quality improvement and to network with each other. The idea is that initiatives that have worked in one hospital might be quickly rolled out in others, and that staff can see that change can happen in a hospital that is like theirs. The first of three events was held in May 2019, with another two planned for the late autumn.



Acute hospital learning and networking event May

Newsletter

Autumn '19
Issue 6

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this autumn edition of the National Dementia Office (NDO) Newsletter, 2019.

Once again, the newsletter provides an update regarding the on-going work of the NDO and, as you will see, we are keeping very busy. The first of three learning events for the acute hospitals took place in May in Dublin. These events bring together a range of acute hospital dementia champions from different hospitals, to share their experience in quality improvement in their own hospital with others, and to network with others. The next two events are planned for October in Mullingar and November in Limerick. We look forward to working closely with our colleagues in the acute service to further develop and enhance dementia care across this sector.

We are delighted to welcome two new project officers who have recently joined the team in the National Dementia Office; Sinead O'Reilly and Ita Kelly. Sinead worked previously in the Nursing & Midwifery Planning and Development Unit in Tullamore. Ita worked in the Acute Services in HSE West.

We hope you enjoy reading the NDO Newsletter. If you would like further information on any of the initiatives outlined in the newsletter or indeed would like to know about the on-going work of the office, please feel free to contact us at dementia.office@hse.ie

Mary Manning, NDO General Manager

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

A priority area within the National Dementia Strategy is Education and Training. We have seen a large amount of activity in this area, notably the National Dementia Education Programmes (ONMSD), PREPARED for Primary Care and Elevator suite of programmes are on the Understand Together website. The National Dementia Office collects and correlates data on HSE-related dementia education programmes, as well as supporting their roll-out across discipline groups. A recent correlation of data has shown an increased uptake in dementia education programmes across all sectors.

A brief summary of our programmes:

The Home Care Worker Module, developed in 2018, has had a total of 520 home care workers and home care managers undertake the programme. The programme is currently being rolled out to HSE staff across each CHO area and is available to private and voluntary home care providers. Training for Primary Care Teams includes a three hour interdisciplinary workshop. To date 505 people have undergone this training.

Enabling & Enhancing the Well Being of People with Dementia is an introductory course to increase awareness of dementia and issues in care. Over 2,466 have undertaken this training to date primarily in Residential and Community Care.

The Acute Care programme aims to promote excellence, creativity and innovation in supporting people with dementia in the acute hospital setting. Approximately 3,000 staff have undertaken this training to date.

The Early Identification of Memory Problems in Older Persons is an E-Learning programme, available through HSE-land. www.hseland.ie To date, 5,111 have completed this module.

Dementia-specific education programmes for General Practitioners are hosted on the Irish College of General Practitioners website. Programmes address issues relating to dementia diagnosis and management. Over 599 GPs to date have accessed these programmes. www.icgp.ie. There are additional programmes for family carers, businesses and service providers on <https://www.understandtogether.ie/training-resources/dementia-training-and-education/>

DEMENTIA RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE EVENT

The Health Research Board's (HRB) programme of applied dementia research, funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies (AP) and supported by the Department of Health, funded research in the areas of organisation and delivery of dementia services; management and decision making in dementia care; and social, economic and policy issues in dementia care. All of which are important areas supporting the implementation of the National Dementia Strategy. To showcase this research and to provide a platform for discussion on future steps in relation to dementia research in Ireland, the NDO in partnership with the HRB collaborated on a Dementia Research Knowledge Exchange event which was held in the Department of Health in April.

The event gave researchers an opportunity to highlight evidence emerging from their research in dementia, bringing this evidence to a wide research and policy audience. It was also an opportunity for attendees to consider the current scale and scope of dementia research across different specialities in Ireland and to reflect on future priorities.

The voices of those with lived experiences of dementia formed a central component of the day. Dr. Helen Rochford Brennan, Chair of the European Working Group of People with Dementia, spoke about the importance of involving people living with dementia in research and the role they can play as research participants and as experts informing the broader research agenda. Dr. Kathleen MacLellan, Assistant Secretary for Social Care in the Department of Health highlighted how knowledge acquired through in-depth research means services can be amended in a conscious way, reflecting the challenges faced by people with dementia.

The full range of research projects presented at the event and the key note address from Mr Geoff Huggins, Director of Health and Social Care Integration with the Scottish Government and the Director of NHS Education for Scotland, will be available shortly to download on

www.understandtogether.ie



Dr. Kathleen MacLellan, Assistant Secretary for Social Care in the Department of Health

SECOND IRISH NATIONAL AUDIT OF DEMENTIA CARE IN ACUTE HOSPITALS (INAD-2)

The first Irish National Audit of Dementia Care in acute hospitals (INAD), undertaken in 2013, explored dementia care delivery to people with dementia admitted to acute hospitals across the country. A follow-up to this audit, INAD-2 is currently underway and will provide further insights to the 2013 baseline data. INAD-2 is a partnership between the NDO, the HSE's Healthcare Audit, Quality Assurance and Verification, and Acute Operations.

The current audit is examining hospital policies and procedures as well as the structural environment within hospitals. In addition, through an audit of case notes, we are examining the care received by people with dementia in each hospital.

The report will contain recommendations for action at a national level to continue to improve the care of people with dementia in acute hospitals. Each hospital and each hospital group will also receive their own results to inform and direct local action. Results of the audit will be published in spring 2020.

THE IMPACT OF THE UNDERSTAND TOGETHER CAMPAIGN

Increasing public knowledge of dementia has been identified as a key research and policy priority globally and is one of six priority areas within our own National Dementia Strategy. The Understand Together (UT) Campaign aims to increase awareness and understanding of dementia amongst the general public. To evaluate the UT campaign, a recent study was undertaken to investigate its impact.

A study undertaken by Dr. Desmond Hickey Specialist Registrar in Public Health Medicine, HSE examined the findings of a 2016 nationally-representative survey of over 1,200 adults living in Ireland examining their knowledge of dementia and help-seeking intention. Following the launch of the UT campaign in late 2016 a further nationally-representative tracking survey of over 1,000 respondents was conducted in early 2018.

Data from the 2016 and 2018 surveys have been compared to evaluate changes in public awareness of the UT campaign and its association with dementia knowledge and help-seeking intention. Findings show that since the launch of the UT campaign awareness of public communication on dementia, self-reported knowledge of dementia and knowledge that dementia risk is preventable has increased.

Certain groups in the population are more likely to be aware of the communication campaign including women, rural residents, individuals aged 40 years and older and those with personal experience of someone with dementia (e.g. family member or friend). In addition, findings indicate an association between awareness of the campaign and holding a positive view of the potential benefits of early diagnosis as well as being unlikely to delay seeking help if dementia was suspected.

It is recommended that future public communication campaigns on dementia should continue to focus on increasing awareness of preventable dementia risk. There should also be an emphasis on targeting groups in the population that are potentially more difficult to reach.

CLINICIANS SURVEY: DEMENTIA DIAGNOSTIC PROCESSES AND PRACTICES IN IRELAND

The National Dementia Office is currently developing a National Dementia Diagnostic and Post-Diagnostic Framework for Ireland and preliminary work to inform the development of the framework is well underway. One critical element of this has been to identify diagnostic processes and practices in secondary care, investigating the degree of variation across the country. To address this we undertook a survey of clinicians (e.g. Geriatricians, Psychiatrists of Later Life and Neurologists) earlier this year.

Responses were received from 35% (N=56) of clinicians involved in diagnosing dementia. Not surprisingly findings show that GPs were the main source of referral for assessment. The majority of referrals were for suspected cognitive impairment over other conditions, indicating a good level of awareness of dementia among referrers.

The majority of assessments take place in general clinics e.g. 65% in acute hospital outpatient clinics, with 31% taking place in specialist memory assessment services. A degree of variation in the type of assessment tools used was also found. However, the greatest variation was noted relating to disclosure and post-diagnostic support provided in different clinics. Findings show that this was due to a lack of dedicated resources rather than variation of need.

The importance of collaboration was highlighted within the survey's findings, and a core group of HSCPs were identified as having a key role to play in dementia assessment and diagnosis.

If you would like a copy of the report, contact the NDO at dementia.office@hse.ie

If you have any queries please contact the National Dementia Office at: dementia.office@hse.ie or on: (057) 931 8451



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