



MEET THE TEAM

- **Mary Manning** was appointed to the post of General Manager, National Dementia Office HSE in 2016. Prior to taking up this National Post, Mary was Director of the Nursing & Midwifery Planning & Development unit for the Midlands region. She has an MSc in Interdisciplinary Dementia Studies, along with an MSc in Education and Training Management.
- **Anna de Siún** is Senior Project Manager at the National Dementia Office. Prior to joining the team in February 2017, Anna was National Development Coordinator (Residential Care) with the Irish Hospice Foundation. She holds a BA in Psychology, BSc in Counselling and Psychotherapy and a MSc in Health Services Research.
- **Dr Emer Begley** is Senior Project Manager at the National Dementia Office. Prior to joining the HSE in January 2017, Emer was Policy and Research Manager with the Alzheimer Society of Ireland. She holds a PhD from Trinity College, a BA in Sociology, a HDip Statistics and an MSc in Applied Social Research.
- **Dr. Suzanne Timmons** will join the team in October 2017 as Clinical Lead at the National Dementia Office. Suzanne is a Geriatrician in Cork, Senior Lecturer in the Centre for Gerontology and Rehabilitation, UCC, and Programme Coordinator for the MSc in Older Person Rehabilitation, UCC.
- **Dr. John Linehan** is a specialist for older person services in the HSE. John has a special interest in dementia care and has chaired a number of national working groups on dementia. He holds a Doctorate in Nursing from University College Cork.

Welcome to the National Dementia Office (NDO) Summer Edition 2017 Newsletter.

We hope this newsletter will keep you up-to-date on the work of the office and the work ongoing around the country to implement the national dementia strategy. The vision of our office is that people with dementia and their family carers receive the supports and services they need to fulfil their potential and to maintain their identity, resilience and dignity as valued and active citizens in society.

The NDO provides leadership at a system level, with a role and function to oversee the implementation, monitoring, and ongoing evaluation of the National Dementia Strategy (NDS).

In this edition we have included an update on some of the work currently underway as part of the implementation of the NDS. In our next issue we look forward to updating you on progress on the projects not included in this edition e.g. the development of post-diagnostic and diagnostic pathways.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter and if you require further information on any of the initiatives, please contact us at dementia.office@hse.ie

IDENTIFYING DEMENTIA-SPECIFIC SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY

In 2016 the NDO teamed up with the Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) to map dementia-specific community-based services available across Ireland. This project is now nearing completion, and data collected will be used to inform the creation of an on-line service finder which will appear on the understandtogether.ie website later this summer.

This information will also support the future development of dementia-specific services in each Community Health Organisation (CHO) area. The identification of dementia-specific community-based services is one step of a longer process for the NDO. We will also examine what generic services people with dementia use, as different types of supports will be required at different points in time and not everyone will require a dementia-specific service.

Keep an eye on www.understandtogether.ie for the service finder and please get in touch with the NDO if you have any additional information you would like to add.

DEMENTIA EDUCATION REVIEW

In order to support the full implementation of the National Dementia Strategy, the NDO is currently conducting a review of dementia related education and training developed and available in Ireland. This review is being conducted to;

- **Identify the range of dementia education and training currently available.**
- **Inform the development of a central point of information for all dementia related education and training.**
- **Identify any gaps in the availability of dementia related education and training nationally.**

If you are involved in the delivery of dementia education and would like to contribute to this review, please contact Anna de Siún at: anna.desiun@hse.ie

INTENSIVE HOME CARE PACKAGES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

The HSE has introduced Intensive Home Care Packages (IHCPs) for people with dementia on a test basis to support those with high needs to remain living at home. Since 2015 there have been approximately 120 packages active at any time.

IHCPs are designed to be flexible and tailored to the assessed needs and preferences of the person and their family members. An in-depth study is being carried out on a sample of dementia IHCPs to evaluate their effectiveness.

GP AND PRIMARY CARE TEAM (PCT) EDUCATION

The PREPARED project has been delivering dementia workshops to GPs in their practices. Between June 2016 and April 2017, 55 workshops have been run nationwide, with 227 GPs and practice staff participating. Workshop material has been delivered to a further 106 GPs through the Continuing Medical Education (CME) small group meetings. We would encourage any local CME small group tutors to consider using this material to run further CME meetings on dementia around the country.

A three hour workshop entitled 'Dementia Care in Primary Care – An Inter-professional Approach' has been developed and will be rolled out to PCTs nationally on a phased basis throughout 2017 and 2018.

A clinical web resource called dementiapathways.ie has been developed specifically for GPs and primary care health professionals. The website includes clinical care pathways, a compendium of information leaflets and guidelines, a database of community based clinical services and supports available for patients with dementia, as well as a comprehensive guide to dementia training and education opportunities in primary care for GPs and other healthcare professionals.

UNDERSTAND TOGETHER CAMPAIGN

Dementia Understand Together is a public support, awareness and information campaign led by the HSE, working with The Alzheimer Society of Ireland and Genio. It is aimed at inspiring people from all sections of society to stand together with the 500,000 Irish people whose families have been affected by dementia. The campaign is supported by over 32 national businesses and organisations who have pledged to play their part to help create an Ireland that embraces and includes people living with dementia.

A new 'one stop shop' website to provide a comprehensive resource for people with dementia, carers/family members, the general public, health professionals and partners will go live during the summer. This website will provide information in relation to dementia and ensure clear signposting to health services so that community supports are clearly set out for people with dementia and their carers/family members.

A new TV advert is being developed aiming to inspire individuals and communities to take steps to include and support people living with dementia and their loved ones. In addition, businesses and organisations are continuing to sign up to support the campaign, training their staff and adapting their services to better support people living with dementia. Find out more at understandtogether.ie

**An update
on some of
the work
currently
underway**

Genio are also working with sites in Cork, South Dublin, Galway and Dublin North City to support the implementation of a more personalised approach to the delivery of dementia-IHCPs. A further four sites scheduled to begin in 2017.

The learning's and findings from this work are being used to consider how best to configure and provide home care supports for people with dementia in the future.

MEETING THE IRISH DEMENTIA WORKING GROUP & THE DEMENTIA CARERS CAMPAIGN NETWORK



In April this year the National Dementia Office (NDO) met with two leading dementia advocacy groups – the Irish Dementia Working Group (IDWG) and the Dementia Carers Campaign Network (DCCN); both groups are facilitated by the Alzheimer Society of Ireland.

The aim of the meetings was for NDO staff to meet directly with people living with dementia and with family carers, ensuring the work of the NDO is informed by the lived experience.

During the meetings we heard directly from people on their own experiences and their thoughts on the strategy's implementation; where they felt work was progressing well and very helpful suggestions were given on where additional focus and attention is required.

The NDO aims to continue our engagement with the two groups and will have regular meetings with both throughout the year.

*If you have any queries please contact
the National Dementia Office at:*

dementia.office@hse.ie

or on:

(057) 931 8451

