

National Dementia Office

dementia

understand together



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Newsletter

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QUICK UPDATES

- Building on the evaluation findings of the delivery of Intensive Home Care Packages for People with Dementia, Genio and the NDO recently made a joint submission to the Department of Health's Review of Home Care Services.
- Thanks to everyone who took part in the Dementia Education Review. The findings will be available on www.understandtogether.ie shortly.
- The ASI and the NDO completed work to map dementia-specific community-based service. This information is now populating the service finder on www.understandtogether.ie. The evidence will also be used to support dementia service planning in each Community Health Organisation area.
- The NDO and the Dementia Service Information and Development Centre will shortly publish an updated Guide to Memory Clinics. Keep an eye on www.dementia.ie and www.understandtogether.ie or contact the NDO for more information.
- We are delighted to welcome Lorraine McNamee who recently took up the role as Nursing Lead for Dementia in The Office of the Nursing and Midwifery Services Directorate. Lorraine will work very closely with the NDO.

Dear Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Winter Edition of the National Dementia Office (NDO) Newsletter 2017. It has been a busy time for the NDO since our last edition with the team now further established. We are delighted to share with you an update regarding some of the ongoing work and progress on the implementation of the National Dementia Strategy Plan. In addition to the projects featured in this edition, the NDO team continues to actively support and lead on progressing many other priority areas.

Through our work in the office, we are very fortunate to work with so many dedicated, energetic and compassionate people across the public and voluntary sectors, all committed to the development and improvement of a more inclusive dementia community and health care service.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment and ongoing support. We look forward to continuing to build collaborative partnerships and ways of working, as we progress the national dementia agenda.

Mary Manning, NDO General Manager

INTENSIVE HOME CARE PACKAGES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA – UPDATE

Home care services play an important role in enabling people with dementia to remain living in their own homes.

At the end of August 2017, 262 people with dementia had benefitted from an Intensive Home Care Package (IHCP), 140 of which were active at that time. IHCPs are supporting people with dementia with a range of needs, many of whom are at a higher risk of long-term care placement.

As well as undertaking an evaluation of the IHCPs, Genio is working with eight sites (Cork, Galway, Dublin South, Dublin North City, Waterford, Dublin North, Limerick and Dublin West) to support the implementation of a more personalised approach to dementia-IHCP delivery.

NEW MEMORY RESOURCE ROOMS BEING ESTABLISHED

Assistive Technology (AT) can support people with dementia to maintain their independence, provide reassurance and reduce risk. HSE Services for Older People secured funding to facilitate the expansion of AT information and availability nationally. Memory Technology Resource Rooms (MTRR) are being established in each Community Health Organisation (CHO) area.

A MTRR Network group has been established to bring together project leads from all areas. The group, which is chaired by the National Dementia Office, aims to ensure standardisation and to explore ways to maximise the use of available resources. Information on MTRRs and AT Libraries currently operating are available on the service finder on www.understandtogether.ie. Additional resources will be added to the service finder as they are established.



Emer Begley, Mary Manning and Anna de Siún of the NDO at the recent Alzheimer Europe International Conference in Berlin where Mary gave a presentation on the work of the NDO and the implementation of the Irish National Dementia Strategy.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN DEMENTIA EDUCATION AND TRAINING

GP and Primary Care Team Training

The PREPARED project, coordinated by Dr Tony Foley in University College Cork, continues to develop and deliver dementia education and clinical resources for GPs and primary care health professionals across Ireland. To date:

- 60 GP workshops were held focusing on diagnosis, post diagnosis and behaviour and psychological symptoms of dementia. 260 GPs have attended one or more of these workshops.
- An inaugural UCC-accredited postgraduate Continuous Professional Development module on dementia is running with 20 GPs attending.
- Inter-professional dementia training sessions for primary care clinicians and primary care teams are being rolled out around the country.

A set of dementia clinical and educational resources to assist individual professional groups working in the community are being developed. If you are interested in getting involved in the development of these resources contact dementiathways@ucc.ie.

All the PREPARED education and other clinical resources are available on www.dementiathways.ie. Congratulations also to The PREPARED Team who recently won an Irish Healthcare Award.

Homecare Worker Education

In 2017 the National Dementia Office commissioned Dublin City University to develop a dementia education programme for homecare assistants and home care managers caring for people with dementia. The programmes' overall aim is to provide skills which will allow those working in the delivery of homecare to best support people with dementia; helping them live well at home for longer. The programme, presented in 6 modules, has been piloted in two locations. It's envisaged that the programme will be available in January 2018, and roll-out will be governed by the NDO. Anyone interested in facilitating or receiving this education programme should contact anna.desiun@hse.ie.

LAUNCH OF THE UNDERSTAND TOGETHER TV AD CAMPAIGN



The HSE with the Alzheimer Society of Ireland and Genio are running a national dementia awareness campaign. Ronan Smith, Chair of the Irish Dementia Working Group, is taking a leading role behind the scenes of the campaign and he tells us more.

"The main aim of the campaign is to reach a wide general public, to aid conversation and connectivity around dementia so

people who are concerned can feel comfortable to take action and feel that there will be an empathetic response. The campaign aims to disassemble the stigma and fear around dementia, as it is something that has been perceived as awkward and difficult to approach.

The campaign also aims to illustrate and explain the simplicity about the impact and importance of being empathetic and sympathetic to those affected by the condition, in effect how it is easy to be supportive.

As someone living with dementia myself, I feel it's absolutely important to include the

An update on some of the work currently underway

voice of those with dementia in the campaign, showing the range of people that can be affected, as dementia is not discriminatory and is in fact community wide. The campaign introduces individuals who are living with dementia, and touches on their individual circumstances, reflecting their own experiences, most recently with two TV ads.

The feedback I've received on the campaign has been very positive, both from friends and family, but also from complete strangers"

To find out more about the campaign see www.understandtogether.ie.

MEDICATIONS FOR A PERSON WITH DEMENTIA: FOCUS ON PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

A national interdisciplinary steering group, co-chaired by Prof. Stephen Byrne, Head of the School of Pharmacy, University College Cork, and Dr. Suzanne Timmons, Clinical Lead for Dementia, is being set-up to develop evidence based guidelines for health care professionals on the use of psychotropic medications for people with dementia. Antipsychotics are a particular focus of the planned guidelines. While they can help with certain dementia symptoms, such as abnormal thoughts, or hallucinations, they have been linked to a slightly increased risk of stroke and death. In addition, they are sometimes used inappropriately for symptoms that are unlikely to respond to treatment with antipsychotics.

The steering group will also develop simple guidance notes for healthcare professionals on medication use in dementia in general, focussing on regular review and prioritisation to avoid excessive medication burden.

ADDRESSING THE DEMENTIA POST-DIAGNOSTIC CARE AND SUPPORT GAP

There is a service and support gap for people with dementia and their families after a diagnosis of dementia. To address this the NDO commenced a Dementia-Post-diagnostic Support (PDS) Pathway Project in June 2017.

A national multi-disciplinary steering committee is supporting the development of the pathway which aims to meet the social, clinical and behavioural needs of both people with dementia and their family carers at the critical juncture following a diagnosis.

To date the Centre for Economic and Social Research in Dementia in NUI Galway has completed a comprehensive PDS literature review. The NDO has also undertaken a needs analysis and scoping exercise.

As information is such a key aspect of post-diagnostic support, we are also identifying gaps in information provision and an information review has just recently been undertaken. Thanks to everyone who participated in this process.

For more information about the PDS pathway contact emer.begley@hse.ie

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

dementia.office@hse.ie

or on:

(057) 931 8451

