

The Association for Dementia Studies

Changing Hearts and Minds in Dementia Care

What we do

Led by Professor Dawn Brooker, the Association for Dementia Studies is a multi-professional University research and education centre. We make a cutting edge contribution to developing evidence-based practical ways of working with people living with dementia, their families, friends and carers that enable them to live well.

Research and Consultancy

About our research

Our research activities range from small scale evaluations of dementia care services and environments to major research programmes funded by UK research councils and the European Union. We work with individual organisations at the local level as well as in collaboration with multiple partners from around the world.

We carry out research in many different settings, such as care homes, acute hospitals, extra care housing, schools and social care. We are experienced in using a wide range of traditional and innovative research methods including surveys, interviews, focus groups, evidence synthesis and consensus development techniques.

Developing evidence to improve services and inform policy

Our experienced multi-disciplinary team can provide a range of research, evaluation and consultancy services to meet your specific requirements.

Areas of expertise include:

- Person-centred Environments, Design and Technology
- Creativity, Sports and Nature
- Dementia Friendly Communities
- Housing and Dementia
- Complex Care Services

We are also an Alzheimer's Society Doctoral Training Centre for the Arts and Dementia. This initiative, called TAnDem, is a partnership between the Association for Dementia Studies at the University of Worcester and the Centre for Dementia, University of Nottingham.

More information can be found on our website at:

<http://www.worcester.ac.uk/discover/dementia-recent-current-research.html>

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Consultancy - Working with you to improve your services

Based on our research, the Association for Dementia Studies can offer a range of consultancy, bespoke support packages and service development activities across our wide portfolio. Our areas of expertise include:

- Creating enabling environments
- Peri-diagnostic and post-diagnostic interventions
- Dementia friendly communities and businesses
- Skilled care and leadership for complex care services
- Creativity and the arts
- Quality improvement programmes including tools for practice
- Person-centred dementia care at home, in supported housing, hospitals and care homes
- Activity, sport and nature
- Information, communication and assistive technologies

What do we offer?

We can help you select and use the myriad of tools available to evaluate whether you are providing a person-centred service.

- **Are you new to the Care Fit for VIPS toolkit?** – We can teach you how to use it, walk you through your first self-assessment and help you decide your priorities for change.
- **Do you need to evaluate the impact of training?** – We can visit a sample of your care homes and make an assessment of practice and impact.
- **Are you looking to improve your premises?** – We can carry out site visits to provide advice on particular schemes.
- **Are you planning a new build?** – We will provide tailored consultancy support throughout the lifetime of a project from initiation to post occupancy evaluation focussing on the built environment.
- **Do you have a product which you think will be beneficial to people living with dementia?** – We can evaluate whether it is effective and provide a report for you.

Care Fit for VIPS 
Achieving excellence in dementia care – the tools for change



These are just a few examples of what we can do for you. If you think that we can help please contact us by emailing dementia@worc.ac.uk

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Education and Development

Education and development opportunities for me

The Association for Dementia Studies offers a range of education and development opportunities, from free online courses, short seminars and one off events to 4-6 day courses, academic courses and specialist one day masterclasses. Please look at our range of options. If you don't find what you are interested in, do please drop us an email to dementia@worc.ac.uk and we will look and see if it can be included in a future programme. You may find that we do actually cover this but we use another name.

- **Seminars and events**

The Association for Dementia Studies offers a range of seminars, if you would like to be informed about future events, please sign up to be on our mailing list <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/discover/dementia-get-in-touch.html> or email dementia@worc.ac.uk.

- **Masterclass and Workshop series**

The Association for Dementia Studies run a series of whole day intensive masterclasses and workshops here at the University of Worcester. These are aimed at people working with people living with dementia who wish to further their expertise and practice to improve the care that they give.

- **University academic courses**

- **Postgraduate Certificate Person-Centred Dementia Studies - Distance Learning**

This new Postgraduate Certificate will run from 2020. The mandatory 15 credit module, led by Prof, Dawn Brooker which starts in January 2020, focusses on Person-Centred Leadership: The VIPS Approach, with a range of further module options to complete 60 credits.

- **Postgraduate Award in Professional Development: Expert Practice in Delivering Person-Centred Dementia Care -Distance Learning**

The course delivered for this online award is one of the very few proven evidence-based interventions to safely reduce medication and improve quality of life and has been developed from the 'Focussed Intervention Training and Support (FITS) into Practice' course in care settings for people with dementia, complex needs and distressed behaviour.

Stand by Me

This free e-learning resource, which was developed by Association for Dementia Studies in collaboration with number of local and national partners, provides an understanding of how to support people with dementia by developing good communication and person-centred care in their own practice, within teams and within organisations. To access this you need to elarning@nsahealth.org.uk

Home is Where the Heart is: Training for domiciliary care workers - cultural competency

This free education resource has been created to provide teaching materials to support the training and education needs of the domiciliary care workforce. The education package can be used by anyone with responsibility for education and quality in organisations that provide care for people living with dementia in their own homes. The resources are FREE to access from www.worcester.ac.uk/discover/Training-for-domicilliary-care-workers-Cultural-Competency.html

Care Fit for VIPS - www.carefitforvips.co.uk

This free, online resource provides an evidence based toolkit for you to review and transform your service

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Education and development opportunities for organisations

Education courses can be created and/or tailored to the specific needs of an organisation and be delivered at a location that is convenient to their employees. Some examples are shown below.

- Leading person-centred services for people living with dementia
- Specialist Practice in Dementia Care
- The VIPS framework for excellence in dementia care
- Excellent Care for Patients with Dementia in Hospitals and Community Settings
- Shorter courses, workshops and masterclasses

Development Opportunities for my team

We can also provide dementia education for teams and communities of practice. Those we have recently provided include General Practitioners, Search and Rescue and Solicitors for the elderly. For example, we have delivered a 3-hour education programme aimed at GPs and senior members of the Primary Care Team with responsibility for or an interest in dementia care. This covers a range of topics to support positive communication pre and post diagnosis with the person with dementia and the development of a dementia friendly surgery.

The UK Meeting Centres Support Programme: Helping you to support people and families directly affected by dementia



The Association for Dementia Studies at the University of Worcester has been awarded a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund to develop a support programme for Meeting Centres. This will fund a project from 1st Sept 2018 to 31st August 2021 with the aim of providing support to people who want to establish their own Meeting Centres in different parts of the UK.

The funding will enable us to build real capacity across the UK so that Meeting Centres can form a backbone of community-based active support to people and families across the country. By working together with early adopters in their communities and with national influencers, the project will attain the national visibility, momentum and traction to bring future generations of Meeting Centres on board.

What support is provided as part of the project?

- One-to-one consultation to look at the opportunities in your area
- Attendance at a one-day Pioneer Workshop to find out more about Meeting Centres and how to set one up
- Support to organise an information meeting for your community to find out what interest and opportunities there are
- Linking you with similar initiatives and arranging visits to existing Meeting Centres
- Access to a Community of Learning and Practice where ideas and advice can be shared
- Training in the Adjusting to Change Model which underpins the Meeting Centre ethos
- Access to a range of resources such as a guidebook and self-assessment tools
- Access to a help-desk and on-ongoing support

Finding out more

For further information and/or to contact us for support, please visit

<https://www.worcester.ac.uk/discover/uk-meeting-centres-support-programme.html> or email meetingcentres@worc.ac.uk

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