

The Arts and Dementia: Shaping the Future

Roundtable Report: the implications of TAnDem PhD research for the Worcestershire Region

Event held on 10th December 2019 at The Hive in Worcester, UK

Background:

One of eight Doctoral Training Centres funded by the Alzheimer's Society, TAnDem (The Arts and Dementia) was formed in partnership between the Association for Dementia Studies, University of Worcester and the Centre for Dementia, University of Nottingham. Its focus was on research into the arts and dementia. An invited roundtable event held in December 2019 focussed on how the arts, culture and creativity can support the wellbeing of people living with dementia. Findings from five TAnDem PhD studies were shared with attendees active in the arts, care, research and education for discussion on how this research could translate into training and practice in the arts and health and care sectors.

About the Association for Dementia Studies:

The Association for Dementia Studies is an active research and education centre. Our multi-professional team are experts in the field of person-centred dementia care and support.

Through research, education, consultancy and scholarship, we make a cutting-edge contribution to building evidence-based practical ways of working with people living with dementia and their families that enables them to live well.



Professors Dawn Brooker and Tracey Williamson with TAnDem PhD students at the Roundtable event



Discussion at the roundtable event

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Findings:

TAnDem PhD student research presentations were followed by facilitated discussions during the roundtable event. Analysis of these presentations and discussion notes identified the following needs for future arts and dementia practice:

1. **Build understandings around the practicalities and complexities of integrating the arts into care practice and within dementia contexts.**
2. **Practical training and educational support to build knowledge of arts and creativity for people with dementia, dementia, and evaluative skills.**
3. **Provision that enables connection, collaboration and sharing of resources.**



Roundtable event attendee connections board



An attendee answer to "What one thought will you take from today?"

Recommendations:

The roundtable event report offers the following recommendations for the University of Worcester in relation to arts and dementia:

- Arts and creative activities are fully integrated into the Association for Dementia Studies Education Programmes and resources in person-centred dementia care.
- Arts and dementia mentoring and placements for students are integrated into relevant University of Worcester courses.
- The Association for Dementia Studies will seek opportunities for research and consultancy for care home group leaders and care home managers to support individual care settings to successfully integrate arts and creative practice.

