



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

What support is provided as part of the Project?

The Association for Dementia Studies at the University of Worcester has been awarded a National Lottery grant from the Big Lottery 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.

Two demonstrator Meeting Centres were established in Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire and Leominster, Herefordshire in 2015-16 as part of the [MeetingDem](#) research project, supported by the Alzheimer's Society. The new funding will allow us to build on this work and provide advice and training to community groups setting up new Meeting Centres.

What is a Meeting Centre?

A Meeting Centre is essentially a local club for people living with mild and moderate dementia and their families. It offers a warm and friendly programme of activities and expert support that helps people to cope well in adjusting to living with the symptoms and changes that dementia brings. See separate flyer for more information.



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 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

UK-MSCP (2018-21) is funded by the Big Lottery UK Portfolio grant 31061526.

MEETINGDEM (2014-17) was led by Prof Rose-Marie Dröes from the VU University Medical Center Amsterdam. Within the UK, the Association for Dementia Studies at the University of Worcester led this research funded by ESRC Grant ES/L00920X/1 with implementation costs from the Alzheimer's Society.