

Fourth National Dementia Ambassador Conference Report

June 2018

#DANC18



The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) Promoting Excellence team facilitated the Fourth National Dementia Ambassadors Conference on Friday 23 February 2018, at the Station Hotel, Perth, which 100 delegates attended.

The conference celebrates and supports the hard work of over 850 Dementia Ambassadors all around Scotland. Various organisations including the Care Inspectorate and Alzheimer Scotland supported the day.



Theme of the day

The day had the theme of 'Connections', which was threefold.

1. The feedback from the Dementia Ambassador review which highlighted how valuable Dementia Ambassadors view the opportunity to connect and network with other ambassadors to support their role.
2. The need to connect Dementia Ambassadors and their role to the [3rd National Strategy for Dementia](#) (Scottish Government, 2017).
3. The need to connect Dementia Ambassadors to interesting work and projects that are available to support their work and their role.

Outline of the day

Professor Jim McGoldrick, SSSC Convener and Jim Pearson, Director of Policy, Alzheimer Scotland welcomed delegates. Both reflected on the hard work and positive impact Dementia Ambassadors have throughout Scotland, as reflected in the Care Inspectorate Report, **My life, my care home** (2017). They also reflected the important role Dementia Ambassadors have in support the implementation of the 3rd National Strategy for Dementia 2017-2020.

Morning session

There was a Pecha Kucha session supported by:

- Robbie Norval, Lingo Flamingo
- Louise Kelly, Care about Physical Activity Programme (CAPA)
- Shona Omand-Smith, Care about Physical Activity Programme (CAPA)
- Donna Sinclair and Leeann Acheson, Balhousie Care, Namaste
- Brian Duffy, 415 Project, Loretto Care
- Sam Rowe, The Village Storytelling centre.

Ann Yourston also shared her fundraising plans for Alzheimer Scotland by trekking the Great Wall of China.

Pat McGonigal, from the Scottish Dementia Working Group, shared his experiences of using technology and the group's film 'living and learning with dementia', which was very well received.

Heather Edwards, Care Inspectorate, spoke about the **My life, my care home** report and highlighted they had graded just over half of care homes as performing at a good or better level. She highlighted the need for improvements to continue to be made to make sure the quality of life for people is not limited due to lack of expectations of what it means to be an older person living with dementia in a care home.

Afternoon session

We welcomed Joanna Boddy, from the National Dementia Carers Action Network, who shared her powerful personal experience of caring for her mother who lived with dementia.

Afternoon workshops

Delegates got to choose an afternoon workshop to attend with each supporting the theme of connections, across strategy and their own work and role as well.

1. Personal outcomes

Led by Grace McDonald (SSSC), Emma Miller (University of Strathclyde) and Maxine Dinnes (SSSC).

2. Registration

Led by Wendy Johnston (SSSC) with speakers Tricia Low (Angus Council), Amanda Meldrum (Trust Housing Association) and Steph Mumby (SSSC).

3. Involvement and engagement

Led by Katy Penman (Care Inspectorate) with speakers James McKillop (Scottish Dementia Working Group) and Clare Egan (Care Inspectorate).

Final session

Delegates were split into groups to discuss the following four questions.

1. What have you taken from what you have heard today that has helped you think about Promoting Excellence learning and development?
2. What is the one biggest priority you want to take forward?
3. How will you get things moving?
4. What support do you need/offer?

Delegates used these questions as a starting point for discussion. Each group had a flip chart to record their collective thoughts and responses about the day and a sample of these are below.

Links across Promoting Excellence and SVQ

Interesting and useful to hear about James's role within the Care Inspectorate – provides another perspective

Going to start own in house exercise group

Passion and knowledge we are doing it right – positivity that there's been an impact

Mapping what we do – small things matter

Share practice and ideas – don't be precious

Namaste – sensory rooms and experience (help from Accord Hospice)

Hearing from Joanna (NDCAN) and reinforcing the importance of people's experiences

Task oriented culture that can exist which gets in the way of person-centred care

Seeing video from SDWG on learning new skills /iPads/social media and challenging view that people with dementia cannot learn new skills or benefit from rehab

Promoting Excellence gives confidence in doing our jobs and speaking with people with dementia and carers

Personal care plans – brilliant starting point, remain active in community and with families

Welcome focus on keeping it local – small change = big difference

More about new things that can be introduced (exhibitors a positive) – Lingo Flamingo, just heard at Care Home Activities network – befrienders for those that revert to first language

No-one is too old to learn

Feedback about the whole day

There was a feedback wall for people to leave comments throughout the day. Here are some of the responses.

The variety of the programme

Been a great day

We are all learning together

Heather's talk very positive

Plural of story is culture

Been inspired to keep up the good work



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