Governance Structure

During 2017 Professor Suzanne Cahill retired from her post as Director of the DSIDC and Matthew Gibb was appointed to the position of Acting Director. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Suzanne for her valued contribution to DSIDC and wish her every success and happiness in the future.

Steering Committee meetings were held in January and September and a National Advisory Group meeting was held in November. All professional activities undertaken by the DSIDC are overseen by a Steering Committee, Dr Declan Byrne continues as Chair of the Committee and Professor J B Walsh as Vice Chair.

Awards

In March 2017, the European Foundation Initiative on Dementia (EFID) launched a new call for awards “Valuing the expertise of people living with dementia”. EFID mission is to improve the lives of people with dementia by enabling a dementia friendly and inclusive environment in communities across Europe. An independent jury selected twelve initiatives across ten European countries aimed at valuing the expertise of people living with dementia as an acknowledgement of their work in respecting the autonomy, dignity and right to self-determination of people living with dementia.

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This evaluation informed a detailed report, submitted to the Chief Executive of the Hospital by the Patient Experience Office, outlining recommendations to improve people’s experience of the St James’s Hospital campus. Learning from the evaluation informed the development of the signage system in the MISA building.

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The Dementia Services Information and Development Centre (DSIDC) is a national organisation committed to best practice in all aspects of dementia care. Our mission is to improve the quality of life and care for all those affected by dementia.

In June 2017, the DSIDC co-hosted the 9th Memory Clinic conference, the theme for the conference was "The difficult topic of genetic Alzheimer's disease". Dr Ted Huey delivered the latest information on the management of Alzheimer's disease. Dr Clodagh Power reviewed the relatively new concept of behavioural variant of frontotemporal dementia.

Throughout 2017 DSIDC staff responded to queries from health care professionals and the public about topics such as quality of life interventions for nursing homes, responsive behaviours and ability assessments for activities and life story work.

The DSIDC website, Facebook and Twitter accounts continue to be a valuable information source for both health service professionals and the general public and offer a range of resources and information on dementia.

The Alzheimer Café provides research, education and networking opportunities for family members and professionals. The café meets on a regular basis to discuss dementia issues and hear from guest speakers.

The DSIDC website, Facebook and Twitter accounts continue to be a valuable information source for both health service professionals and the general public and offer a range of resources and information on dementia.

In June 2017, the Alzheimer Café for Frontotemporal Dementia was launched, providing information and support for those affected by this complex condition.

In addition, staff from the Centre delivered in-house training workshops and gave a number of lectures on dementia-related topics, including MIA and its Creative Life Art, Our Lady's Hospice, Nuns Island Hospital, Trinity College and the HSE, in the development and provision of more focused aspects of dementia education. DSIDC contributed to a number of significant contributions to the learning programme of the HSE's ‘Your Pathway’ and ‘Living Well’ initiatives.

The main focus of the conference was on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of dementia.

The Alzheimer Café, for Frontotemporal Dementia was launched providing information and support for those affected by this complex condition.

Our information and consultancy service reflects the increased quest on the part of practitioners and the public for information on dementia-related topics. These queries came from a variety of organisations and settings. Informational consultation continues to be an important facet of the Centre's work in meeting the needs of the residential sector.

DSIDC staff continue to provide education to health care professionals nationwide. This included the provision of dementia workshops in a number of private nursing homes and HSE dementia specific units. In addition, staff from the Centre delivered in-house training workshops and gave a number of lectures on dementia-related topics, including MIA and its Creative Life Art, Our Lady's Hospice, Nuns Island Hospital, Trinity College and the HSE, in the development and provision of more focused aspects of dementia education. DSIDC contributed to a number of significant contributions to the learning programme of the HSE’s ‘Your Pathway’ and ‘Living Well’ initiatives.

The Centre continues to disseminate information, participate in research and collaborate with other professional groups. These collaborations, which are both national and international, reflect the effective synergy between the Centre’s academic research policy and service development policies of Education, Information and Research.

Information about the forthcoming 2017 conference will be available on the Centre’s website, www.dementia.ie.

Information Consultancy Services

Our information and consultancy service reflects the increased quest on the part of practitioners and the public for information on dementia-related topics. These queries came from a variety of organisations and settings. Informational consultation continues to be an important facet of the Centre’s work in meeting the needs of the residential sector.

Throughout 2017 DSIDC staff responded to queries from health care professionals and the public about topics such as quality of life interventions for nursing homes, responsive behaviours and ability assessments for activities and life story work. We also received many requests from the general public for advice and information on general memory and cognitive assessment services for people caring for a relative with dementia. We are delighted to announce that the DSIDC Education Centre, incorporating our dementia-specific library, nine features on the HSE Libraries website as a partner library.

DSIDC staff continue to provide education to health care professionals nationwide. This included the provision of dementia workshops in a number of private nursing homes and HSE dementia specific units. In addition, staff from the Centre delivered in-house training workshops and gave a number of lectures on dementia-related topics, including MIA and its Creative Life Art, Our Lady's Hospice, Nuns Island Hospital, Trinity College and the HSE, in the development and provision of more focused aspects of dementia education. DSIDC continued to work with other organisations including MIA and its Creative Life Art, Our Lady's Hospice, Nuns Island Hospital, Trinity College and the HSE, in the development and provision of more focused aspects of dementia education. DSIDC contributed to a number of significant contributions to the learning programme of the HSE’s ‘Your Pathway’ and ‘Living Well’ initiatives.

During 2017 we announced the launch of the award-winning ‘Pills, Bills and Wills’ programme.

During the year we published both new and revised versions of several of our information and advice leaflets. New publications included ‘Pills, Bills and Wills’, providing helpful advice to individuals who are continually faced with making decisions about medications for memory loss and lifestyle advice. The ‘Your Pathway’ and ‘Living Well’ initiatives are due to be introduced and have a number of dementia-related initiatives, including ‘Enduring Power of Attorney’, ‘Generation to Generation’ and ‘Pills, Bills and Wills’.

The DSIDC and the National Dementia Office worked together on an updating the fourth edition of A Guide to Memory Clinics in Ireland. This publication gives a comprehensive overview of memory clinics and provides a list of clinics throughout Ireland. All of the above booklets can be downloaded from our website, www.dementia.ie. The DSIDC website also stands at several events including the Irish College of General Practitioners conference in January and the Irish Gerontological Society in September.

During 2017 Professor Suzanne Cahill and Dáithí Ó Caláin, at UCD, published a novel and informative booklet on tips to help dementia and Alzheimer’s disease. This book provides research and practical guidance on tips for dementia.

Staff from the Centre participated in several national and international conferences throughout 2017, including the Alzheimer Europe conference ‘Care today, care tomorrow’, which took place in Berlin. The main focus of the conference was on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of dementia and the important contributions of European research efforts in advancing these fields.

The DSIDC were also involved in the Future Health Summit, the Euro and Ascent conferences and the launch of the HSE’s ‘Understand Together’ campaign. The aim of the campaign is to raise people’s awareness of dementia and to help them find support and resources in the community.

During 2017 we announced the launch of our online teaching resource for schools ‘From the Brain to the Forgetful’. Teachers and students can now download an interactive PDF version of our dementia awareness programme directly from our website www.dementia.ie.

The Brain, Brain Health and Dementia: A Short Guide was another new addition. This dementia awareness booklet provides an opportunity for young people and the general public to learn about the brain, memory, brain health and the role of the brain in memory loss. By providing the opportunity to learn about dementia we are not only continuing to build a dementia-friendly generation, we are raising awareness of the wider role of building dementia inclusive communities in Ireland.
Introduction

The Dementia Services Information and Development Centre (DSIDC) is a national organisation committed to best practice in all aspects of dementia care. Our mission is to improve the quality of life and care for all those affected by dementia. We strive to make Ireland a country for people with dementia and their families where they can live in dignity and comfort, supported by high-quality dementia services and information. We work with families, service providers and policy makers to ensure the provision of dementia services through research, training, education and development.

Education & Information

DSIDC staff continued to provide education to health care professionals nationwide. This included the provision of dementia workshops in a number of private nursing homes and HSE dementia specific units. In addition, staff from the Centre delivered in-house workshops and gave a number of lectures on dementia related topics. The Alzheimer Cafe and various professional and voluntary groups. The DSIDC continued to work with other organisations including MSA and its Creative Life arm, Our Lady’s Hospice, Nursing Homes Ireland, Trinity College and the HSE in the development and provision of more focused aspects of dementia education. DSIDC continued to work with other organisations including MSA and its Creative Life arm, Our Lady’s Hospice, Nursing Homes Ireland, Trinity College and the HSE in the development and provision of more focused aspects of dementia education.

Information & Consultancy Services

Our information and consultancy service reflects the increased demand on practitioners and the public for information on dementia related topics. These queries came from a variety of organisations and settings. Information and advice consultations continues to be an important facet of the Centre’s work in meeting the needs of the residential sector. DSIDC staff also continue to provide education to health care professionals and the public about topics such as quality of life interventions for nursing homes, responsive behaviours and ability assessments for activities and life story work. We also received many requests from the general public for advice and information on general memory and cognitive issues and from people caring for a relative with dementia. We are delighted to announce that the DSIDC Education Library continued to provide education to health care professionals nationwide. This included the provision of dementia workshops in a number of private nursing homes and HSE dementia specific units. Information on general memory and cognitive issues and from people caring for a relative with dementia. We are delighted to announce that the DSIDC Education Library continued to provide education to health care professionals nationwide. This included the provision of dementia workshops in a number of private nursing homes and HSE dementia specific units.

Conferences & Seminars

In June 2017, the DSIDC co-hosted the 7th Annual Memory Clinic conference for the theme for the conference was “The difficult to diagnose dementia”. The event was well attended by medics and health care professionals and received good reviews. The conference was held at the Trinity Sciences Centre, St James’s Hospital, Dublin. Throughout 2017 DSIDC staff responded to queries from health care professionals and the public about topics such as quality of life interventions for nursing homes, responsive behaviours and ability assessments for activities and life story work. We also received many requests from the general public for advice and information on general memory and cognitive issues and from people caring for a relative with dementia. We are delighted to announce that the DSIDC Education Library continued to provide education to health care professionals nationwide. This included the provision of dementia workshops in a number of private nursing homes and HSE dementia specific units. Information on general memory and cognitive issues and from people caring for a relative with dementia. We are delighted to announce that the DSIDC Education Library continued to provide education to health care professionals nationwide. This included the provision of dementia workshops in a number of private nursing homes and HSE dementia specific units.

The DSIDC website, Facebook and Twitter accounts continue to be a valuable information source for both health service professionals and the general public and offers a number of ways to seek out assistance, information and advice on any dementia related query they may have.

We aim to keep the public and professionals updated with the latest thinking on best practice in dementia care. A popular new feature in the website is our weekly news bulletin highlighting interesting articles and research that have appeared in the media during the week.

During 2017 DSIDC staff participated in a number of national and international networks, steering committees and programmes.

DSIDC national workers were involved in the development of the “Creating dementia inclusive communities in Ireland” project. This project was funded by the Alzheimer’s Society of Ireland and involved the development of a comprehensive awareness programme for children and young people to be delivered in schools. The programme was launched in September 2017 and subsequently rolled out to all schools in Ireland. The booklet provides an opportunity for young people to learn about dementia and on the important contributions of European research efforts in advancing our understanding of dementia. Staff from the Centre participated in several national and international conferences throughout 2017 including the Alzheimer Europe conference “Care today, Care tomorrow”, which took place in Berlin. The main focus of the conference was on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of Alzheimer’s dementia and on the important contributions of European research efforts in advancing these fields.

The DSIDC were also involved in the Future Health Summit, the Future and Acumen conferences and the launch of the HSE’s ‘Understand Together’ campaign. The aim of the campaign is to raise people’s awareness of dementia and to help them find support and resources in the community.

During 2017 we announced the launch of a new online resource for schools “The Brain: From our Fantasies to the Forgetting”.

Teachers and students can now download an interactive pdf version of the booklets directly from our website www.dementia.ie

During the year we published both new and revised versions of several of our most popular pamphlets. New publications included ‘Alzheimers, Bills and Will’s’, providing helpful guidance for those facing the diagnosis, document démarches for medications for memory loss and lifestyle advice. The DSIDC, in collaboration with Enduring Power of Attorney and gives some tips on managing personal finances.
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Conferences & Seminars

In June 2017, the DSIDC co-hosted the 7th Memory Clinic conference. The theme for the conference was “The difficult to diagnose: dementia”. The conference provided a unique opportunity to deal with assessment and management of difficult to diagnose cases that warrant special assessment in Memory Clinics throughout Ireland, the UK and the United States of America. Professor Tim Lynch and Dr Ted Huey delivered the latest research in diagnosis and management of frontotemporal dementia. Professor Justin Kinsella addressed the difficulties in diagnosing Alzheimer’s disease. Dr Mircea Balasa speaking on the subjects of dementia in the homeless community and CSF biomarkers to support diagnosis. Dr Judith Snowden explored the difficulties in diagnosing cases of Alzheimer’s disease. Dr Justin Kinsella and Dr Mircea Balasa subsequently addressed the main points of the conference and provided directions for future research.

Our information and consultancy service reflects the increased quest on the part of the public for information on dementia related topics. These queries can come from a variety of fields, including policy and research, caregiving, and personal experience. Our service provides useful, evidence-based information that can be easily used. Our information and consultancy service has continued to make a significant contribution to the e-learning programme of the Alzheimer Café and the online teaching library. Throughout 2017 DSIDC staff responded to queries from health care professionals and the public about topics such as quality of life interventions for nursing homes, responsive behaviours and ability assessments for activities and life story work. We also received many requests from the general public for advice and information on general memory and cognitive issues, as well as issues coming from people caring for a relative with dementia. We are delighted to announce that the DSIDC Education Centre incorporating our dementia-specific library, now features on the HSE Libraries website as a partner library.

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DSIDC staff continued to provide education to health care professionals nationwide. This included the provision of dementia workshops in a number of regions, including nursing homes and HSE dementia specific units. In addition, staff from the Centre delivered in-house workshops and gave a number of lectures on dementia related topics to Liberty IT, the Alzheimer Café and various professional and voluntary groups. The DSIDC continued to work with other organisations including MISA and its Creative Life arm, Our Lady’s Hospice, Nursing Homes Ireland, Trinity College and the HSE, in the development and provision of more focused aspects of dementia education. DSIDC contributed to a significant contribution to the e-learning programme of the St James’s Hospital’s Dementia Project funded by Geno. The main objectives of the project are to raise the need for hospitalisation, to reduce the length of stay, to provide early intervention and to provide dementia specific education for the Hospital workforce.

Education & Information

During 2017 we announced the launch of the E-learning platform for the LSST’s dementia awareness resource for schools, Dr Alan Lawlor, and Dr Matthew Gibb published an informative article in the Law Society’s Gazette offering advice to practitioners to seek out assistance, information and advice on any dementia related enquiry they may have.

The DSIDC and the National Dementia Office worked together on updating the fourth edition of A Guide to Memory Clinics in Ireland. This publication gives comprehensive overview of memory clinics and provides a list of clinics throughout Ireland. All of the above booklets can be downloaded from our website http://www.dementia.ie. The booklet is available in five versions and stands at several events including the Irish College of General Practitioners conference in June and the Irish Gerontological Society in September.

For further information and updates please visit www.dementia.ie.

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During 2017 Professor Suzanne Cahill retired from her post as Director of the DSIDC and Matthew Gibb was appointed to the position of Acting Director. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Suzanne for her valued contribution to DSIDC and wish her every success and happiness in the future.

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The Dementia Services Information and Development Centre

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