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The Dementia Services Information and Development Centre (DSiDC) works alongside health and social care professionals; people with dementia and their care partners; community organisations; private and public care providers and national policy makers. The Centre is based in St James's Hospital, Dublin on the sixth floor of Mercer's Institute for Successful Ageing.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

The DSiDC continued to provide bespoke education packages to healthcare professionals and community personnel nationwide including staff running a helpline for older people, carers within the deaf/blind community and members of retired religious communities. During 2019, 15 in-house workshops were delivered in our Education Centre covering a wide range of dementia specific topics. We are delighted to report that both our in-house and off-site workshops continue to be well attended and consistently receive excellent reviews.

The DSiDC played a significant role in the teaching of third level courses including Trinity College's MSc in Gerontology, the MISA Foundation Programme in Gerontological Nursing and we continued to contribute regularly to the St James's Hospital Induction Programme, helping to increase awareness of dementia throughout the hospital. During 2019 the DSiDC continued to provide training to St James's Hospital security personnel on different aspects of dementia.

The DSiDC worked in collaboration with a number of groups including: the Dementia Understand Together campaign; Libraries Ireland and the Depaul charity. In particular, the DSiDC worked with the HSE National Dementia Office and the PREPARED project, a national GP and primary care initiative, in developing online education programmes for Occupational Therapists (OT) and Speech and Language Therapists. Work on the OT module is almost complete and will be available on the DSiDC website by mid-summer 2020. In addition to the allied health e-learning packages, the St James's Hospital DemPath e-learning modules on dementia, will also be available to access on our website during 2020.

Mild Cognitive Impairment



Memory Clinic, St James's Hospital, Dublin 8

Our values are of dignity and respect; autonomy and choice; participation and empowerment. Our mission is to transform people's understanding and awareness of dementia through our educational programmes, research and through the dissemination of accurate information about dementia. Our vision is of a society where the civil and legal rights of people with dementia are fully respected and they are able to participate in the making of all decisions that affect them without discrimination or prejudice.

A new two-day course, designed by the HSE and Dublin City University, for home helps/homecare workers, homecare managers and coordinators was delivered to staff in CHO Area 8 by the DSiDC. The course provides participants with a range of skills to better support the person with dementia to remain in their homes for longer. The DSiDC plan to run this two-day course in our Education Centre twice more during 2020.

Our information and consultancy service continues to reflect 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. We received many requests for advice and information from the general public on dementia related issues and from those worried about memory or cognitive problems. In response to this need for information a new booklet was developed addressing the issue of mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and what actions to take if a person is concerned about their memory. The DSiDC provide a professional consultancy service offering advice on a broad range of issues including architectural design, service evaluation, and quality of life issues.

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 users a forum to seek out assistance, information and advice on any dementia related enquiry they may have. We aim to keep the public and professionals upskilled with the latest thinking on best practice in dementia care and we are currently working with developers on a new interactive website which will be launched in 2020.

The DSiDC continues to play an active role on the Dementia Friendly Hospital Guidelines Committee, the Post-diagnostic Support Pathways Steering Committee and the National Dementia Strategy Monitoring Group. The DSiDC are working with the Dementia Understand Together campaign to examine ways in which Libraries Ireland can encourage local libraries to become more dementia inclusive. Staff from the Centre created links with the National Health Library and Knowledge Service giving St James's Hospital employees free access to a large range of books on health and wellbeing via BorrowBox. Members of the public can also sign up for BorrowBox and are able to use it with their library barcode and pin number. The DSiDC took part in various health promotion campaigns including World Mental Health Day and World Alzheimer's Day.

The DSiDC, as part of the DemPath project, was responsible for the installation of the 'Tovertafel' (or Magic Table) in Kilmainham Ward in the Mercer's Institute for Successful Ageing. The Magic Table is an interactive projector that encourages activity and engagement for people with dementia on the ward.

RESEARCH

2019 was a significant year for the DSiDC with the launch of two guidance documents for health and social care practitioners. In conjunction with the HSE National Dementia Office, the DSiDC were delighted to announce the launch of "The Next Steps: Dementia post-diagnostic support guidance". The document provides support in the establishment and ongoing facilitation of dementia post-diagnostic psychoeducational programmes for people with dementia and family care partners. The "Next Steps" forms part of the larger Dementia Post-Diagnostic Support Project and furthers the National Dementia Strategy's action area of Timely Diagnosis and Early Intervention. The document was launched at the Wood Quay Venue on Friday 18th January 2019. Professor Richard Cheston was the keynote speaker at the event along with Kathy Ryan, Vice Chair of the Irish Dementia Working Group, Una Caulfield of the Dementia Carers Campaign Network, Dr Emer Begley, Senior Project Manager at the NDO and Matthew Gibb from the DSiDC.

Also in 2019 the NDO commissioned the DSiDC to develop a guidance document for the use of non-pharmacological interventions for behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia. "Non-Cognitive Symptoms of Dementia (NCSD): Guidance on non-pharmacological interventions for healthcare and social care practitioners" is designed to be used as a companion piece to the National Clinical Guideline document (NCG) for the appropriate prescribing of psychotropic medication which was launched by Minister Simon Harris on 5th December 2019 at the Department of Health.



(L-R) Kathy Ryan, Vice Chair of the Irish Dementia Working Group, Una Caulfield of the Dementia Carers Campaign Network, Professor Richard Cheston, Dr Emer Begley Senior Project Manager at the NDO & Matthew Gibb from the DSiDC. Pictured at the launch of "The Next Steps"



Matthew Gibb, Director, DSiDC pictured at the launch of "The Next Steps"



HSE and St James's Staff at the Borrow Box event



(L-R) Diana Burgui, Bernie McGowan and Lorraine Lovely pictured at the Clinical Skills Fair

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

In May 2019 MISA and the DSiDC co-hosted the National Memory Clinic Meeting which provided an excellent forum for information sharing and networking amongst experts working in memory clinics nationwide. Throughout the year DSiDC staff presented at the Royal College of Physicians and attended several national events including: Engaging Dementia Conference; Ageing Social Care and Social Justice; Alzheimer Knowledge Exchange; Assessing Risk to Vulnerable Adults; Transforming Care for Older People; Creative Arts and Dementia; the Irish Gerontological Society in Cork; the European Reminiscence Network Conference; Living with Dementia in Rural Ireland and; the European Foundation Initiatives for Dementia in Turin. Towards the end of 2019 staff from the Centre took part in an Interdisciplinary Skills Fair hosted by MISA and presented at an event organised to support World Mental Health Day.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The DSiDC continues to employ five staff members all of whom are based in the national centre in St James's Hospital. All professional activities undertaken by the DSiDC are overseen by a Steering Committee. We are delighted to announce that Dr David Robinson has taken up the position as Chair of the Committee and we would like to take this opportunity to welcome Dr Robinson to the Committee. We would also like to thank our outgoing Chair, Dr Declan Byrne, for his valuable help and support during his tenure. Steering Committee meetings were held in May and November and an Advisory Group meeting was also held in November 2019.