



The UK Meeting Centres Support Programme Newsletter

Welcome to the December 2021 newsletter!

As another challenging year draws to a close, it's heartening to see that the momentum around Meeting Centres continues to build.

At the latest Reference Group meeting in November we took stock of the work that's been done so far, as well as looking ahead to the future. We've seen a proliferation of new Meeting Centres across the UK, and our Community of Learning and Practice is rapidly expanding as new parties become involved.

Despite the challenges imposed by the pandemic we've been extremely grateful to Meeting Centre staff for their hard work to ensure that the collection of meaningful and impactful data has continued.

We're developing a robust portfolio of projects relating to Meeting Centres, with 'Get Real' being just one example of this. We've also had exciting news about the next phase of our research and support, so please see the 'Embed' section for more information about this!

Thank you for your continued support and interest in Meeting Centres.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

**Director of the Association for Dementia
Studies**

December 2021 Edition



Worcestershire Meeting Centres

We're pleased to announce that the application deadline for the Worcestershire Meeting Centres Community Support Programme has been extended. Applications will now be accepted until 28th February 2022, with new Meeting Centres needing to open by the end of June 2022.

Any Meeting Centres benefiting from this funding will join those already open in Malvern Link, Malvern Hills, Worcester and Evesham, plus those due to open in Kidderminster and Stourport in the new year.

To get you in the festive spirit, here's a Christmas tree decorated by members at Leominster Meeting Centre, using handmade decorations. Stunning!



Meeting Centre training

The final 2021 cohort of our five-week online Meeting Centre training course has ended, with follow-up sessions still to take place in early 2022.

We've already put dates in the diary for three further courses in 2022 for April, July and October, and will be exploring a variety of options to ensure their sustainability in the longer term.

If you're a UK based Meeting Centre member of staff or volunteer have a look at our website for more details on how you can attend for free.



UKMCSP Embed

We're delighted to announce that we have been awarded funding from the National Lottery Community Fund to continue supporting Meeting Centres until the end of February 2023.

Starting in March 2022, the 12-month Embed project will aim to ensure that the national Meeting Centre network and supporting structures can be embedded into the post-Covid landscape and to integrate these new solutions into everyday practice.

As part of this, there will be a National Consortium of interested parties to focus on the future structure of national leadership and coordination of Meeting Centres across the UK.

The new funding will enable us to put plans in place to cover five key areas in the longer term:

- Managing enquiries
- Managing and maintaining resources
- Maintaining the Community of Learning and Practice
- Training delivery
- Data collection activities

Going hybrid in Wales

There are also exciting developments in Wales. As well as opening a fifth Meeting Centre in Welshpool, Dementia Matters in Powys are implementing a 'hybrid' model to enable people who are unable to attend in person to still engage with activities and other members.

Watch this space for further updates!

Scottish developments

Four new Meeting Centres have recently been funded in Scotland and will be located in Forfar, Montrose & Arbroath (all in Angus) and Musselburgh in East Lothian. These join the existing Scottish Meeting Centres in Kirriemuir and Dunblane. The outcome of the Life Changes Trust Legacy funding will be announced in January. Meeting Centres were a key theme of this fund, so there should be more on the horizon in Scotland in the New Year

Get Real with Meeting Centres

This 2-year project has been making great progress carrying out a substantial number of interviews and focus groups with Meeting Centre members, family carers, staff and trustees.

The next stage will be to send out a short survey to family carers to explore different aspects of Meeting Centres using a 'discrete choice experiment' approach. We've already been piloting this with a couple of Meeting Centres and are poised to get the surveys disseminated in the near future.

Monthly Webinars - update

Throughout 2021 we ran a series of webinars focusing on different aspects of Meeting Centres as an alternative to a face-to-face conference. The last of these took place on 26th November and a blog about it can be found on the Meeting Centre blog site, along with blogs and recordings for each of the webinars in the series.



For further information and/or to contact us for support, please visit:

Web: <https://www.worcester.ac.uk/discover/uk-meeting-centres-support-programme.html> and <https://www.worc.ac.uk/discover/meetingdem-jpnd.html>

Email: meetingcentres@worc.ac.uk

Twitter: [@MeetingCentres](https://twitter.com/MeetingCentres)

Mailing list: https://ext-webapp-01.worc.ac.uk/meeting_centres_mailing_list/subscribe

Blog: <https://meetingcentres.wordpress.com/> and useful resources <https://meetingcentres.wordpress.com/useful-resources/>

