



April, 2019

The UK Meeting Centres Support Programme Newsletter

Welcome to our first UK MCSP newsletter!

It is almost six years since I first got involved with Meeting Centres when we, at the Association for Dementia Studies, were invited to be part of the MeetingDem (www.meetingdem.eu) project. The main purpose of that was to see if the Dutch model of implementing Meeting Centres could be replicated in the UK and if comparable benefits could be found. That project finished two years ago and as a result there are already eight Meeting Centres around the UK. We also have a range of evidence in the form of academic papers, publications, videos and related resources.

It was clear quite early on that there was a real interest, thirst and need for Meeting Centres in other parts of the country. Bolstered by that, we are now already seven months into the UK Meeting Centres Support Programme (UK MCSP). The rest of this newsletter focuses on some of the key project deliverables and our progress so far.

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

Best wishes

Director of the Association for Dementia Studies



A Meeting Centre in every town!

As part of the MeetingDem project two Meeting Centres were set up in 2015/16 in the UK in Droitwich Spa (Worcestershire) and Leominster (Herefordshire). Another six have since become established in Ross-on-Wye (Herefordshire), Lutterworth (Leicestershire), Northampton (Northamptonshire), Brecon, Llandrindod Wells and Ystradgynlais (Powys), and Kirriemuir (Angus) is just about to open.

The aim of the current three-year UK MCSP project is to have between 15 and 20 new Meeting Centres open or under development across the UK for people and families affected by dementia, that can act as demonstrator sites and centres of learning for others.

Judging by the high number of enquiries and visits to the existing Meeting Centres and the energy and passion from all parts of the UK, we are more than hopeful that we will meet our target.

To find out more about the UK Meeting Centres Support Programme, please contact:

Shirley Evans, Programme Manager
meetingcentres@worc.ac.uk

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Pioneer Workshops

As part of the project accessible information, training, skills development and on-going support will be developed and made available on how to set up and sustain a functioning Meeting Centre in the UK. A key aspect of this in year one (2018/2019) will be a number of one-day Pioneer Workshops across the UK. These workshops are free and are designed to help people think about and plan how a Meeting Centre might work in their community. Workshops have already taken place in East Lothian, Oxford and Worcester. The following dates are arranged/pencilled in:-

- Plymouth – 8 May 2019
- Worthing – 3 July 2019
- Newcastle – 26 September 2019
- Leeds – 1 October 2019
- Manchester – 9 or 15 October 2019
dates and venues tbc asap
- Doncaster – 5 November 2019 - before
the start of UK Dementia Congress

We are also planning further workshops in other parts of the UK. If you can offer/suggest venues for half day events for 40-60 people, cabaret style in an accessible location, please let us know. We are particularly interested in potential venues in South Wales, Central London & the South East (Essex/Herts/Beds).

Please contact us by email for further details or to offer a venue meetingcentres@worc.ac.uk



Monthly Webinars

One aspect of the Community of Learning and Practice will be a monthly Meeting Centre webinar on the last Friday of every month, 12.30 to 1.00 pm. Professor Dawn Brooker will start on 26th April 2019 with a webinar entitled: Some personal reflections on why Meeting Centres have been part of my work since 2013 and why having a Community of Learning and Practice is needed in the UK.

If you would like to attend the webinar please email meetingcentres@worc.ac.uk and we will send you information as to how to access the webinar (you will need access to the internet and headphones). If you can't make it don't worry the session will be recorded and you will be sent a link to access it at your leisure.

If you would like to present a webinar please let us know, using the above email address, the title and your preferences as to when you would like to do it. If you have not done this before we are happy to help!

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

Blog: <https://meetingcentres.wordpress.com/> Twitter: @MeetingCentres

