



December, 2019

Welcome to the Christmas 2019 newsletter!

There were a number of highlights this year and not enough space to cover them all.

Since the last newsletter four new Meeting Centres have opened, which is picked up further over the page. We've also run Pioneer Workshops covering all four nations, generating considerable interest with around 25 Meeting Centres on the horizon.

The University of Worcester won the prestigious Times Higher Education Award 2019 for Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community for our work with Meeting Centres. The award was presented at a glittering event at the Grosvenor Hotel in Park Lane, London on the 28th November 2019. The photo shows Shirley and I collecting the award from Julian Clarey and Sir Deian Hopkin.

A programme of Adjusting to Change two day training events has commenced, aimed at those running or closely connected to Meeting Centres. Keep an eye on our website <http://bit.ly/38KCcJ5> for further information.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in Meeting Centres. I am sure 2020 will bring more developments and success but most importantly our working together will continue to truly make a difference in our communities.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Director of the Association for Dementia Studies



The Essential Features of a Meeting Centre

There has been much debate within the Community of Practice and the National Reference Group about the essential and defining features of Meeting Centres. A document was ratified at the October 2019 meeting. It identifies the key features together with a checklist that existing and potential MCs can use to self-assess where they are and what they might do to move forward. This will enable us to agree who should formally be on the database of new and emerging MCs.

Essential features of a Meeting Centre	1 On-going regular Meeting Centre Club	2 We are in this together
 3 ? Adjusting to change	4 Skilled and stable team plus volunteers	5 Meeting Centre Leadership
6 Focus on both members living with dementia and family carers	7 Programme of activities	8 Location
 10 Community of learning and practice	11 UK Meeting Centres data collection	9 Community engagement

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

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

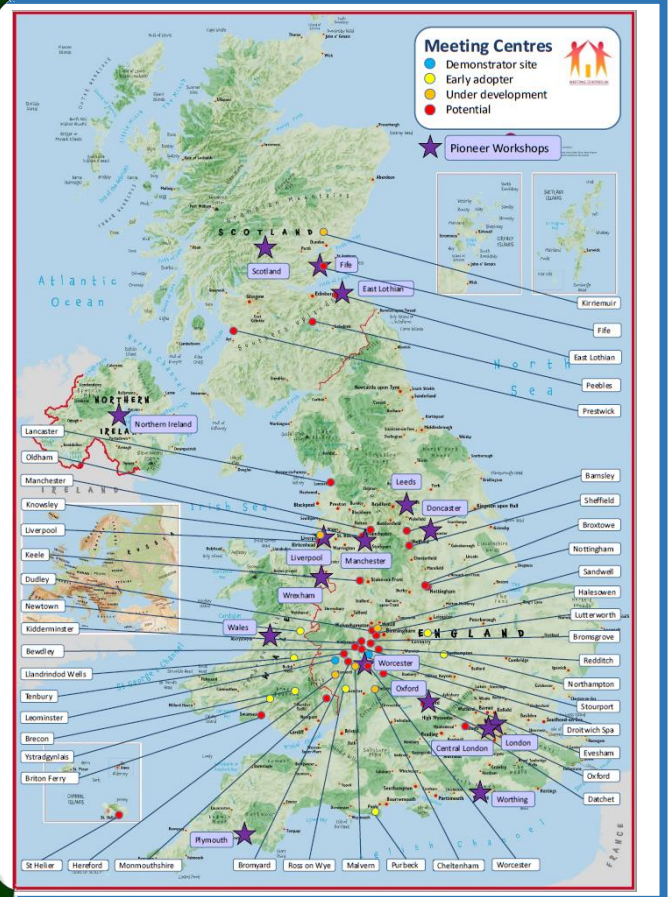
A Meeting Centre in every town - progress!

Our original demonstrator sites, Droitwich Spa and Leominster, have gone from strength to strength. Both have been awarded National Lottery Community Fund grants for almost half of their running costs for up to four years.

These and the other six original Meeting Centres have been joined by Kirriemuir as the first Meeting Centre in Scotland, Purbeck in Dorset, Oldbury in the West Midlands and Newtown as Powys' fourth Meeting Centre in Wales. Powys has also received lottery funding and Kirriemuir has funding from the Life Changes Trust.

Our map shows the current spread of Meeting Centres and gives a flavour of interest and activity. The purple stars indicate where we have held Pioneer Workshops, which have been attended by a variety of people.

These workshops are springboards for Meeting Centres and we estimate there will be at least another 20-25 new Meeting Centres over the next two years, supporting around 2000 people affected by dementia.



Monthly Webinars

In the new year we will be running a Meeting Centre webinar on the last Friday of every month 12.30 pm to 1.00 pm. So the next three will be on Friday Jan 31st, Feb 28th and Mar 27th 2020. These will be informal presentations/talks with a view to sharing practice and a chance to ask questions.

The webinars are listed on our website UK MCSP <http://bit.ly/38KccJ5> with links to the webinars and information about how to access them via GoTo meeting.



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

