Museums and dementia: Current research and approaches to evaluating work with people affected by dementia.

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Session overview

1. What is BUDI?
2. Why is dementia important?
3. What the research tells us
4. Current approaches
5. Ways to evaluate
OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

What is BUDI?

• We are committed to working with others to help create an inclusive and supportive society for people affected by dementia.

• We will achieve this through the production of high quality research, evidence based education and staff development, knowledge translation through service evaluation and consultancy services.

• We aim to work with all relevant stakeholders in the dementia field.

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What is BUDI?

BUDI THEMES:
1. Dementia Awareness and Knowledge Translation
2. Dementia-Friendly Environments
3. Improving Services and Care Provision
4. Dementia-Friendly Leisure
5. Leadership, Education and Staff Development

SERVICES WE OFFER:
• Research
• Consultancy
• Service evaluation
• Education and Professional Development
Group introductions

What is dementia?
Types of dementia

Dementia
- Alzheimer’s
- Vascular
- Frontotemporal
- Lewy bodies

How can it affect someone?

Can cause difficulties with:
- Memory loss
- Impaired decision making abilities
- Decline in communication skills
- Disorientation and confusion
- Difficulties with mobility and dexterity
- Difficulties with personal hygiene
- Problem with planning
- Difficulties with problem solving
- Difficulties with concentration
- Changes in mood and behaviour

Secondary symptoms:
- Depression
- Agitation
- Aggressive behaviours
- Confusion
- Repetitive actions
Why is dementia important?

Key Dementia Policy initiatives in the UK

- **2009** – English National Dementia Strategy (ENDS) (followed by strategies for Scotland and N.Ireland in 2010)
- **2009** – ENDS Implementation plan
- **2010** – National Dementia Declaration – launched by the Dementia Action Alliance
- **2012** – Prime Ministers Dementia Challenge

Dementia Friendly Communities

Our ambition is to support wider society to make the change to enable people who have dementia to be able to confidently go about their daily lives safely and free from stigma.

http://dementiachallenge.dh.gov.uk/category/areas-for-action/communities/

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What does the research tells us

- People affected by dementia need more than medical treatments – they need to be engaged in social activities.

- Linked to creating dementia friendly communities to raise awareness within society of dementia, and support people to live well in their communities and to support everyday access to shops and libraries or leisure access to museums, theatres or galleries.

(Department of Health, 2012).
What does the research tell us

- Museums have moved from being places housing cultural heritage to having a focus on learning, engagement and creating meaning.

- Increase in programmes offered to address public health needs such as dementia (Camic and Chatterjee, 2013; Camic, Tischler and Pearman, 2013).

- Camic and Chatterjee (2013) refer to a museum/gallery as a non-stigmatising environment, because it is not where the diagnosis has been made. This could be a particularly suitable environment for both people with dementia and their family members as they can just be, engage in the activity and connect with each other.

What does the research tells us

- Increase in Museums offering outreach (i.e. into care homes) and in-house programmes for people with dementia and their family members.

- Limited research evidence on the benefits or otherwise of these, particularly their longer-term impact on health, well-being and coping strategies.

- More rigorous evaluation and evidence is needed to support the continual development of such therapeutic arts based programmes.

(Roe et al., 2014).
Existing examples

- Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) – New York
- Metropolitan Museum of Art – New York
  - Russell Coates Museum - Dorset
    - Poole Museum – Dorset

Your examples

- What do you do?
- What would you like to do?
Evaluation

• How do you evaluate work with people with dementia?

• What sorts of questions should you ask?

• What would you like to measure?
Evaluation

- Quantitative versus qualitative
- Involve the person with dementia and their family members
  - Informed consent

Any questions
References


• Department of Health (2012) *Prime Minister’s Dementia Challenge*, London, DoH.


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