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**SPIN-D**  
**NETWORK+**

Sustainable Prevention,  
Innovation and Involvement  
for Dementia

## Welcome to the March 2026 edition of the SPIN-D Network+ Newsletter

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Our newsletter this month comes early as the deadline for the flexible fund is fast approaching. We have included more resources for applicants to the flexible funding initiative, photos of some of the SPIN-D team at key events last month, plus upcoming events and news from across the dementia network plus initiative.

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### Deadline Approaching – 31st March 2026 Flexible Funding

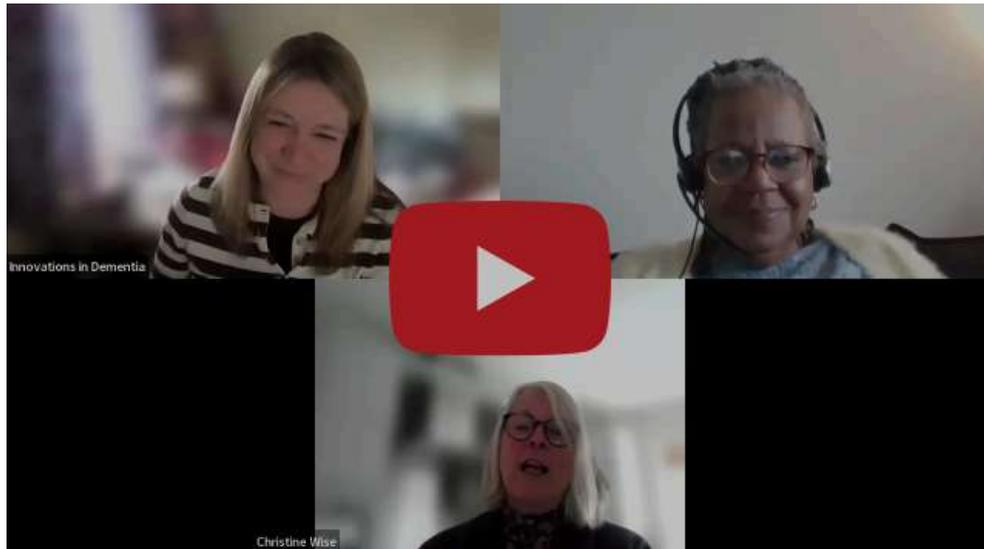
The deadline is fast approaching for the second call for projects under the Flexible Funding initiative, aimed at Early Career Researchers. We wish to fund projects that will delve deeper into our understanding of dementia or share findings from previous studies. Funding is available at two levels:

1. **'Inclusion in practice'** grants for small projects or events. Funding will be provided within an anticipated range of £400-£2,000, with an upper limit of £4,000 (at 80% fEC).
2. **Proof of Principle** Research Project funding for carrying out a small pilot project, with funding up to £24,000 (at 80% fEC).

[Find out how to apply on our website.](#)

### [Video Resource] Ideas around co-production

Members of the SPIN-D Core Lived Experience Group (CLEG), Bettina, Christine and Martin, sat down with SPIN-D strategic co-production partner, Rachael (Innovations in Dementia) to give their insights into how to involve people with lived experience of dementia in a meaningful way in flexible funded project applications, and in project delivery. The video is conversational in tone and is something we encourage potential applicants



Additional resources for applicants include a live-stream webinar [available here](#) (the recording from the 2025 webinar is [available here](#)). The webinar events were hosted by [Dementia Researcher](#). Martin Orrell, Chair of the Proof of Principle Flexible Funding panel, discussed his top tips for writing an application at an early career researcher event in January 2026. This session was recorded and can be [viewed here on the SPIN-D YouTube channel](#).

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## Recent Events

The past few weeks have been busy and eventful with many of our network team out and about at key events. Here is a selection of photos.

Some of the organisers at the impactful **'SPIN-D Spotlight on LGBTQIA+ and Dementia'** event held on 25th February 2026 in London. (L-R) Natalie Tawney (Determind), Dr Clare Hammerton (SPIN-D co-production and involvement lead), Dr Emily Paremain (SPIN-D programme manager), Rachael Litherland (Innovations in Dementia), Prof Georgina Charlesworth (SPIN-D co-lead), Alice Winters (SPIN-D programme administrator), Luce Stewart (Determind), John Hammond, and Dr Claudio Di Lorito.





Prof Georgina Charlsworth (SPIN-D co-lead) with Dr Megan Rose Readman (University of Liverpool) at the 7th Liverpool Dementia & Ageing Research Conference held on 3rd March 2026. Megan was one of the **SPIN-D Flexible Fund awardees in 2025** receiving funding for her project, **'Using Electronic Health Records to identify the presence and effect of dementia risk factors across different subtypes.'**

Some of the SPIN-D co-production and involvement team and SPIN-D strategic partners presented a poster at the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Event held on 3rd March 2026 in Stirling. The poster is titled, **'Learning from Four Sides: Meaningful Co-production and Involvement in Research and Partnership Development'**.



Representing the four sides and pictured are Martin Robertson (SPIN-D Co-applicant / Core Lived Experience Group), Rachael Litherland (Strategic Co-production Partner), Debra Gingell (Public Involvement) and Dr Clare Hammerton (Co-production and Involvement Approach).



Additional events hosted, attended, or represented by members of the network are listed on the [SPIN-D Network+ Calendar](#) on our website.

[Follow SPIN-D Network Plus on LinkedIn](#) to see more of our events and activities.

## Upcoming Events

**Capturing rural lives: Using photography to share stories of dementia and caregiving**

**Thursday, 26th March 2026, 12 - 1pm**

**Online**

Catherine Loveday, to explore how photography can illuminate the lived experience of dementia. Following these short talks, we will welcome questions and support some discussion and networking.

### **Optional pre-webinar task**

We'd welcome participants to share an image, artwork or other creative output that represents what you think of when you hear "rurality" or "rural living". Please submit these to [hello@fayewatson.co.uk](mailto:hello@fayewatson.co.uk) ahead of the webinar and also let us know if you'd be happy to share verbally about your image during the session. Please feel you can interpret this prompt however you would like to, there are no right or wrong interpretations.

**[Please fill in the short form to register for this event](#)**

We are looking forward to seeing you all on the 26th of March! Ellie, Catherine and Faye (on behalf of the **SPIN-D & EMPOWER Rurality Special Interest Group**)

## **PPA Awareness Day 2026 Webinar**

**Friday, 10th April, 12 - 1 pm**

**Online**

**Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA) is a rare language led dementia. People with PPA have told us that it can be difficult to get an accurate diagnosis and to get the right support.**

The 2026 awareness campaign aims to increase knowledge about PPA and what the right supports might be, and this year is delivered in a collaboration with the Royal College of Speech and Language

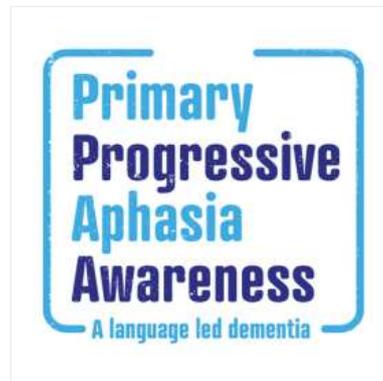
Therapists, Rare Dementia Support and the Memory Services National Accreditation Programme (MSNAP). MSNAP is a quality improvement network under the Royal College of Psychiatrists that accredits UK dementia services.

**The campaign will run for 10-weeks.** Each Friday we will share news, personal anecdotes from people with lived experience or updates on research **[via social media](#)**.

The campaign will culminate in a webinar at midday on **[PPA Awareness Day – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April](#)**.

The webinar is for everyone and will include short presentations from:

- a world leading neurologist
- speech and language therapists
- representatives from Rare Dementia Support and MSNAP
- people with lived experience



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## News and Events from across the Dementia Network Plus Initiative

### First in-person Conference hosted by the Working With Dementia Network Plus

**Wednesday, 25 March 2026**  
**University of the West of Scotland (UWS)**

The Conference will be an exciting opportunity to bring together our community of researchers, lived experience individuals and carers, employment, health care and policy stakeholders to explore the latest insights on dementia and employment.

We hope to see you there to exchange perspectives and discuss how to create dementia inclusive workplaces equipped to support people living with dementia and those in unpaid caring roles.

Register your intention to attend and receive more details on the Conference soon!

**[You're invited! WWD Network Conference 2026](#)**

### 2nd EquaDem Network Plus Annual Conference

**Thursday, 7 May 2026**  
**Newcastle**

EquaDem's second annual conference will showcase key findings from the network's collaborative work to date and bring together experts in dementia policy and practice with those with lived experience of dementia to find the best ways of reducing current inequalities. We will be joined by Fiona Carragher, Chief Policy and Research Officer at the Alzheimer's Society, and Professor Martin Knapp, Professor of Health and Social Care Policy at LSE (London School of Economics and Political Science).

If you would like to attend, please register here: **[EquaDem Network Plus Conference, Newcastle Tickets, Thu 7 May 2026 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)**

Please note, whilst the conference is free to attend, tickets are limited. If you register but are no longer able to attend, please cancel your ticket(s) to allow others on the waiting list to attend.

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## [Free Resource] Let's Talk Dementia:

# Supporting communication in research partnerships involving people with dementia

Let's Talk Dementia are a group of people with dementia, their supporters, and researchers. The aim of the group is to support communication in research partnerships involving people with dementia.

They have created written and video guidance on how to communicate in a way that is accessible to people with dementia, as partners in research.

[Find out more here.](#)

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## Bringing Out Leaders in Dementia (BOLD) Online Social Leadership Programme

The Online Social Leadership Programme is an innovative 6-week online creative training programme delivered on Zoom on Thursdays from 10:30am–12:30pm. It is designed for:

- People living with early-stage dementia
- Unpaid dementia carers
- Dementia practitioners working in care homes and the community

**Unpaid carers and people living with dementia attend free (funded). Practitioners £300, or free with a £99 annual subscription to the Bold resources website.**

The programme is designed to build confidence, connection and leadership through creativity and shared experience.

**If anyone would like to register their interest they can email [info@bold-scotland.org](mailto:info@bold-scotland.org) or visit [www.bold-scotland.org](http://www.bold-scotland.org).**

# Online Social Leadership Programme

The **bold Online Social Leadership Programme** is an innovative 6-week Online creative training programme designed for people with early-stage dementia, unpaid carers and dementia practitioners with **CPD accreditation**.

As someone **Living with Dementia** you will gain...

- **Self-care and boundary-setting** to look after your wellbeing and express yourself confidently.
- **Social Leadership in your community** to empower taking part in local projects using your voice.

As an **Unpaid Dementia Carer** you will discover...

- **The 'Quiet Leadership' model** to lead with empathy, building supportive networks around you.
- **Shared experiences** to gain fresh perspectives, feel heard and grow your confidence.

As a **Dementia Practitioner** you will develop...

- **Storytelling and listening skills** to enhance your communication to build trust.
- **Creative exercises for problem-solving** and reflection to elevate service delivery.

## Pricing Structure

- Dementia Practitioners – £300 or FREE if you subscribe to the BOLD Subscription Website for 1 year at £99 [www.bold-resources.org](http://www.bold-resources.org) (includes CPD Certificate)
- Unpaid Carers – FREE (Funded)
- People Living with Dementia – FREE (Funded)

For every Practitioner booking, a Carer and a Person Living with Dementia can attend at no cost. Flexible support available please email [info@bold-scotland.org](mailto:info@bold-scotland.org) to discuss your requirements.



### 2026 DATES

Programme 1: 30<sup>th</sup> April - 4<sup>th</sup> June

Programme 2: 17<sup>th</sup> Sept - 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct

Programme 3: 29<sup>th</sup> Oct - 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec



### ON ZOOM

THURSDAY

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM



**CPD Certificate awarded  
on completion**

**[SPIN-D Network+](#)** is now one of eight Dementia Network Plus initiatives.

Four networks are jointly funded by the Alzheimer's Society, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC, part of UK Research and Innovation), and the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR).

**[EMPOWER Network+](#)**

**[EQUADEM Network+](#)**

**[Working with Dementia Network+](#)**

Four networks are jointly funded by the Alzheimer's Society, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC, part of UK Research and Innovation), and the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR).

**BRIDGES for Dementia (University of Sheffield)**

**CONSOLIDATE (Heriot Watt University)**

**TEDI (Northumbria University)**

**ZeDTech (Imperial College)**

