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SPIN-D
NETWORK+

Sustainable Prevention,
Innovation and Involvement
for Dementia

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

Our newsletter this month introduces the Rural and Coastal Special Interest group and the launch of our Flexible Funding blog as well as upcoming events and news from across the dementia network plus initiative.

Reflection: SPIN-D Network Plus at Alzheimer's Disease International 2026

Several of the SPIN-D team were in attendance along with members of the 8 Dementia Network Plus teams at the conference in Lyon this month. **[Read our short blog](#)** to view the posters and photos from the event.



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.

[Video] Capturing rural lives: Using photography to share stories of dementia and caregiving

This webinar brings together artist and facilitator Ellie Robinson-Carter, founder of The Photobook Project, and cognitive neuroscientist Professor Catherine Loveday to explore how photography can illuminate the lived experience of dementia.

The **SPIN-D Network Plus Rural and Coastal Special Interest Group (SIG)** is set up with support from Empower Network Plus to connect people with lived experience, community organisations, practitioners and researchers focused on brain health, dementia prevention and dementia support in rural, remote, island and coastal communities.



Flexible Funding Blog

We have launched our flexible funding blog to showcase the fantastic projects that were awarded funding under the Inclusion in Practice and Proof of Principle themes.

Starting us off is Dr Leanne Greene (University of Exeter) and her project titled, **SAFE-D (Supporting & Advancing Falls and Fracture Evidence in Dementia)**.



News and Events from across the Dementia Network Plus Initiative

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.

BRIDGES for Dementia Network Plus Event: Good practice around PPIE (Patient & Public Involvement & Engagement)– Perspectives of people with dementia

Thursday, 14 May 2026
Location: Online (Zoom)

This workshop is a conversation-based session designed to inform and inspire. We'll be hearing directly from people with lived experience of dementia and their carers about how they want to be involved in research, best practice techniques for co-production, and how to navigate the complexities of involvement—particularly for those considering applying for BRIDGES funding.

BRIDGES for Dementia Network Plus Sandpit: Indoor and Outdoor Space

Thursday, 28 May 2026

UCL Institute of Education (IOE), London

The BRIDGES Network+ challenges the traditional focus on basic physical needs that result in technologies primarily used for safety, surveillance and monitoring. Instead, we aim to empower people with dementia to be in charge of what they want to do by co-designing technologies that support holistic health, social connection, and continued participation in communities.

This sandpit event is dedicated entirely to our first core theme: Indoor and outdoor spaces. Indoor and outdoor environments can be confusing to navigate and often present challenges such as poor natural light, uneven surfaces, changing light conditions, and lack of seating.

[Find out more here](#)

Working with Dementia Network Plus Research Grant Fund

Call for Expressions of Interest: Deadline 1 June 2026

The Research Grant Fund will promote innovative, transdisciplinary research to deepen and broaden the evidence on the topic of dementia and employment, with the ultimate purpose of enhancing the labour market and life experiences for those living with dementia and their carers.

The Working With Dementia Network Plus invites eligible teams to submit an Expression of Interest for the Research Grant Fund by 1st June 2026. Expressions of Interest will be reviewed and assessed by representatives of the Network, including its academic team, Lived Experience Panel, Stakeholder Advisory Group and Early Career Researcher Forum. Please be aware that you must submit an Expression of Interest to be considered for funding, as only those projects shortlisted at this stage will be invited to submit a full proposal for awarding.

Other News and Resources

CHAI Research Call

Deadline Wednesday 13 May 2026, 11.59pm

The CHAI Hub's Research Call Round 2 goal is to support academic researchers (including Post-doctoral Research Associates, PDRAs) to collaborate with industry partners, clinicians, and policy and regulatory experts, aligned with CHAI's overarching mission.

Funding details:

Total fund for Round 2: ~250,000 (we expect to fund 3-5 projects)

Funding: 80% FEC (in line with EPSRC guidance)

Duration: 6-9 months

Deadline: Wednesday 13th May 2026, 11.59pm

More details can be found on [our website](#) or we are happy to answer any questions via chai@ed.ac.uk

Annual Care Innovation Challenge

Deadline 5 June 2026

The Care Innovation Challenge is an annual, hackathon-style programme designed to spark creative, practical and sustainable solutions for the adult social care sector. It's about igniting fresh ideas, building confidence, and opening doors to networks and opportunities that continue long after the Challenge programme ends.

The Care Innovation Challenge returns to Coventry University on 27th - 28th June 2026! **Applications are now open!**

ESRC Connect Awards (pilot)

Deadline 10 June 2026

Apply for funding to connect with other researchers to scope, seed and grow emerging research fields and new areas of inquiry. This pilot funding

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) will fund 80% of the project's full economic cost (FEC). Awards can last up to six months. Projects must have finished by 31 March 2027.

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)



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