



Media Release

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European foundation launches report on importance of community in challenging dementia

Dementia is one of the biggest challenges currently facing Europe, with more than 7 million people living with the condition. This number will grow to 15 million by 2050.

With no current cure, looking at other means of supporting people with dementia has been crucial, and the role of communities has been emerging as increasingly important for people living with the condition.

In response to this, the European Foundations' Initiative on Dementia (EFID) are launching a brand new research report - 'Mapping Dementia Friendly Communities across Europe'.

Using case studies to illustrate the role that communities can play in helping people live better with dementia, the report will highlight how dementia friendly communities allow people living with dementia to live well in the place they call home. They also empower and enable people affected by dementia to take part in society as active citizens and have a say in the decisions that affect their lives.

The report will be launched next week at an event in the 'dementia friendly' city of Bruges, hosted by EFID, and will showcase dementia friendly initiatives across Europe and the significant impact they are already having.

Although the European Union has carried out work on dementia, there is no Europe-wide initiative that supports a dementia friendly community approach to tackle the challenges linked to dementia. EFID is the most significant pan-European programme that promotes social inclusion through their work.

Anna Buchanan, Director of the Dementia Programme at the Life Changes Trust said, 'The Life Changes Trust has already been funding a number of vibrant and diverse dementia friendly communities across Scotland, which are already showing significant results in improving the quality of life and inclusion of people affected by dementia, including carers. As a member of EFID, it's heartening to see from this report that dementia friendly communities are being embraced and are flourishing. We hope this report will lead the way for further development of dementia friendly communities across Europe – and beyond.'

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Visit www.efid.info to download the executive summary of the report 'Mapping Dementia Friendly Communities (DFCs) across Europe' in Dutch, German, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Bulgarian, and Japanese.

The workshop, entitled 'Exchange of Practice and Development of Indicators to Capture Change', will be at the College of Europe, Bruges, on the 10th and 11th of May. Going further than just capacity development, the event will offer stimulating networking and learning space to reflect on how to demonstrate the impact of different dementia-friendly initiatives around Europe.

EFID is a group of European Foundations, composed of The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Fondation Médéric Alzheimer, the King Baudouin Foundation, the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Genio Trust and the Life Changes Trust. As a collective body, EFID believes that the community approach has to be developed to tackle the challenges linked to dementia. EFID's mission is to improve the lives of people with dementia by enabling dementia-friendly and inclusive environments in communities across Europe.

The Life Changes Trust was established by the Big Lottery Fund in April 2013 with a ten year endowment of £50 million to support transformational improvements in the quality of life, well-being, empowerment and inclusion of people affected by dementia and young people with experience of being in care.