
DEMENTIA POST-DIAGNOSTIC SUPPORT
GRANT SCHEME IN IRELAND:
EVALUATION OF ITS
IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT

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- Project staff implementing PDS interventions
- People with dementia and family carers participating in PDS interventions

DEMENTIA POST-DIAGNOSTIC SUPPORT GRANT SCHEME

- Established by National Dementia Office in 2018
- 18 projects across Ireland grant funded
- Funding for staff to implement at least one intervention:
 - Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (CST)
 - Cognitive Rehabilitation (CR)
 - Psychoeducational (PE) interventions

EVALUATION

Overall programme evaluation

Focus on implementation issues, **NOT** to demonstrate effectiveness

Three key aims:

- Describe PDS interventions delivered, delivery processes, and context
- Assess the overall impact of PDS interventions for people with dementia and their family members
- Assess if overall PDS Grant Scheme succeeded in addressing post-diagnostic support and care gaps

METHODOLOGY

Process evaluation:

- Review of grant applications
- Consultation meetings with projects
- Interviews with project staff
- Data collection tool

Impact evaluation:

- Evaluation impact forms
- Developed using PPI and in consultation with NDO and project staff
- Completed by intervention participants

Data collection: 6 months (Jan to Jun 2019)

INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED (JAN – JUN 2019)

Intervention	Delivered by	Participants	
		People with dementia	Family carers
CST	7 projects	89	---
CR	6 projects	80	64
PE	6 projects	63	76
Total	17 projects	232	140

COGNITIVE STIMULATION THERAPY INTERVENTIONS

- CST delivered in diverse contexts
- Good acceptability of UCL CST and CogsClub
- Advantages of delivering CST
- All projects made adaptations – fidelity?
- Training vs. staff readiness and flexibility
- Feasible to deliver CST in acute hospital setting

COGNITIVE REHABILITATION INTERVENTIONS

- OTs highly involved in CR implementation
- Projects opted for memory rehabilitation, not individual goal-oriented CR
- Individual vs. group CR interventions
- Memory aids used but access variable
- CR reached intended target beneficiaries

PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL INTERVENTIONS

- Huge heterogeneity among PE interventions
- Most focused on dyadic PE interventions
- Individual dyadic PE more successful than group dyadic PE interventions
- Low take-up for groups related to delays in staff recruitment, stigma of dementia, time invested in developing new PE interventions

OTHER ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED

- Use of resources and staff recruitment processes
- Staffing and staff competencies
- Recruitment and referral
- Diagnostic process highly relevant
- Role of family carers
- Access issues

WHAT PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA VALUED

- Overwhelming majority rated interventions very positively
- CST: Opportunity for social interaction and to talk, peer support, wanted CST to continue
- CR: Tips and strategies, peer support from group CR, reassurance from being connected with services early on
- PE: Positive feedback on individual dyadic PE interventions, knowledgeable staff, a relaxed and calm atmosphere, being listened to and being heard
- Benefits for staff also reported

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- People with dementia can benefit from and value PDS
- Evaluation offers unique insights into implementation of PDS interventions
- CST worth scaling up in Ireland, but issues of uniformity and consistency
- Approach and format for delivery of CR?
- Developing new PE interventions is significant undertaking; Individual, dyadic PE appear to be more successful
- To support implementation, additional funding is necessary



THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?

