



Valuing Active Life In Dementia

Newsletter

Issue 6, Summer 2017



What has happened since we were last in touch?

Research trial recruitment completed

We finished recruiting people with dementia and their family supporter to take part in the research trial at the end of June. Our final recruitment total is **468** pairs.

The final figure is slightly short of the original target of 480 but nevertheless represents a huge undertaking and achievement. SO – we would like to thank all the people living with dementia and their supporters who have consented to take part in the study; as well as the research staff, clinical teams and their local collaborators for their support in making it happen – we could not have done it without you.

The next steps

Of course the hard work is not finished and research visits will continue until early January 2018 to collect follow-up data from participants. The Community Occupational Therapy visits (COTiD-UK) will also continue into the autumn of this year.

It is important to retain as many participants as possible, across the sites, in order to have as full a dataset as possible to analyse. The data will need to be checked, including the accuracy of transcribing it in to the online database. We have started to do this and the results, from the data audits completed so far, have been positive. Once all the data is checked and inputted accurately, then the statistical analysis will start. We expect to have initial results in May 2018.

How was it for you?

We are conducting interviews to explore and better understand the experience and impact of taking part in the COTiD-UK sessions; which aspects are more or less useful and what helps or hinders the sessions going to plan. We are interviewing 7 occupational therapists and 22 pairs who took part in the sessions from across 10 of our sites and expect to finish these in September.

Royal College of Occupational Therapists Annual Conference, Birmingham

The VALID research team was well represented at this event which took place at the ICC in Birmingham.



Laura di Bona, who recently left the VALID team at University of Sheffield, presented a paper entitled 'Occupational therapists' research engagement: enablers and challenges'. This reported results from the focus groups conducted with occupational therapists who delivered the community occupational therapy sessions in the first phase of the research programme. The aim of this phase was to adapt the original Dutch version to better meet the needs of people and fit the health and social care context within the UK to develop COTiD-UK.

Becky Field, researcher and PhD student (University of Sheffield) presented a paper 'Identifying influences on take-up of a community occupational therapy intervention for people with dementia and their family carers' which reported the first phase of her PhD study.

Jane Burgess and Tom Swinson, from the NELFT VALID team, presented a poster 'Are we doing it right? Assessing fidelity of delivering a complex intervention: Community Occupational Therapy in Dementia (COTiD-UK)'. This reported the work done, in collaboration with Holly Walton and Professor Susan Michie at UCL, to measure the degree to which the community occupational therapy sessions are delivered as per the research trial protocol.

For more information, see: www.ucl.ac.uk/valid
Email: VALID@nelft.nhs.uk
Telephone 0300 555 1200 Ext. 64491

and Congratulations go to:

Dr Jennifer Wenborn, Programme Manager

On being awarded a Fellowship by the Royal College of Occupational Therapists. This is the highest award that the Royal College can bestow on a member. Jennifer's Fellowship has been awarded in recognition of her contribution to occupational therapy practice and research for older people and people with dementia, and people living in care homes.

A formal presentation event is planned for September.



Jacki Mundy, Trial Manager

On completing her MSc in Health Service Research at City University (awarded with Distinction). Jacki's dissertation, entitled 'Why people say no: an exploration of why dyads decline participation in psychosocial dementia trials' systematically reviewed the literature that reported the reasons why people decline to take part in studies similar to VALID. It also covers ten semi-structured interviews, conducted over the telephone, with family supporters who had been approached to take part in the VALID study but declined. Jacki presented a poster outlining her study at the NELFT R&D Open Day in May. She also presented at 'Involving the public and patients in research - sharing global practice and evidence' in London, organised by Alzheimer's Society (UK), Alzheimer's Society of Canada and the NIHR.



Becky Field, Researcher at University of Sheffield

On receiving the 2017 Early Researcher Award following her presentation at the Royal College of Occupational Therapists conference.

Memory Assessment Service in Poole, Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust

On being named runner up in the Wessex Clinical Research Network Awards: 'Outstanding Engagement in a Clinical Team' category. This award was in recognition of the clinical team's commitment to engaging service users in research, and initiation by the team leader, in prioritising this engagement, during weekly team meetings to promote and encourage participation in spite of time constraints for everyone.

VALID in print

The following papers have recently been published:

Stansfeld J, Stoner C, Wenborn J, Vernooij-Dassen M, Moniz-Cook E, Orrell M. (2017) Positive psychology measures in family carers of people living with dementia in the community. *International Psychogeriatrics*. DOI: 10.1017/S1041610217000655

Di Bona L, Wenborn J, Field B, Hynes S, Ledgerd R, Mountain G, Swinson T. (2017) Enablers and challenges to occupational therapists' research engagement: A qualitative study. *British Journal of Occupational Therapy*. DOI: 10.1177/0308022617719218



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The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NHS, NIHR or the Department of Health.

