



BRIDGES

Dementia Network+

March 2026 Newsletter

5th February 2026- Launch of the BRIDGES Network



We'd like to thank everyone who supported the launch of our network in Sheffield on the 5th of February 2026.

We especially welcomed the participation of people with lived experience of dementia, whose personal insights offered invaluable perspectives to researchers, healthcare professionals, industry representatives, and members of the public who joined us both in person and online.

The launch event wasn't just about building a network; together with our partners we're building a community dedicated to dignity, better care, and a brighter future for dementia support. We would like people with lived experience to be involved in all aspects of our work, from taking part in the Advisory Board, acting as advisors on co-design workshops, or reviewing research proposals for funding.

Exploring how technologies can better support everyday life of people living with dementia.

BRIDGES team members are currently conducting participatory workshops across England as part of funded research to co-design a future framework to deliver technology-enabled support for people living with dementia. Part of this includes identifying needs, and together selecting potentially useful existing tools. At the end of February we ran a workshop to test the ease of use

of some technologies which may help people living with dementia.

We unboxed a variety of items together - including a robotic companion dog, key-finding devices, a small motion-activated reminder device, and some other everyday technologies, all recommended by the 'About Digital and Me' (ADAM) platform developed by Alzheimer Scotland. We explored how devices worked in practice - how intuitive the instructions were, how easy the setup felt, and what happened when devices met real lives.



It was such a joyful session. The robotic dog drew much attention and laughter, while the key-finding devices

prompted practical conversations about what tends to go missing and how we might make every day searching a little easier. In some cases, devices designed specifically for people living with dementia (such as a simplified mobile phone) were difficult to set up, while in other cases overly complex packaging proved a challenge to many participants. This highlighted the importance of co-designing technologies alongside people with lived experience of dementia.

People also spent time playing and experimenting with a musical “slider box” developed by [Jennifer MacRitchie's](#) team, as the topic of music had been mentioned by participants in previous sessions.

Take part in a co-design workshop

We would like to bring together people with dementia and researchers to openly explore how technologies could support connections and everyday life. Participants will be supported to unpack elements of their everyday experience of dementia, and through co-design, imagine ways simple and complex technologies might give people more freedom and more happiness day to day. Travel costs will be covered and there will be refreshments and lunch both days, with overnight accommodation paid for if desired.

We plan to run this in Manchester in June. **If you are**

someone with lived experience of dementia and would like to take part, [please provide us your name and contact email on this form](#) so we can provide further information. Please feel free to forward to interested parties.

Future Webinar:

Technology network for Social Care Innovation (TESCI) network is one of a number of funded networks investigating certain aspects of dementia directly, or issues related to the impact of dementia on society.

TESCI is hosting a webinar with Clare Burgess, CEO Kyndi, who will talk about Assistive technology to support independent living.

When: Monday 13 April 10am

Where: Online. Please register on

Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tesci-assistive-technology-to-support-independent-living-tickets-1983447736573?aff=oddtcreator>

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Our mailing address is:

bridgesfordementia@sheffield.ac.uk