



**BRIDGES**  
Dementia Network+

# May 2026 Newsletter



Welcome to the May 2026 newsletter for BRIDGES for Dementia Network+, where we focus on moving technology beyond simple monitoring to truly empower independent living. This month, we invite you to join our interactive workshops on inclusive design and co-production, alongside our first Collaborative Sandpit and exciting new funding opportunities from our partners at TEDI. Whether you are a researcher, a professional, or someone with lived experience, your insights are vital to shaping a future where technology works for everyone.

## **Contents**

**Good Practice around PPIE and Co-production:  
Perspectives of People with Dementia.....Page 2**

**Designing for Sight: How Dementia Changes Vision -  
An Experiential Workshop.....Page 3**

**Our First Collaborative Sandpit: Indoor and Outdoor  
Spaces.....Page 4**

**Partner Highlights.....Page 6**

**Get in Touch.....Page 7**

# Good Practice around PPIE and Co-production: Perspectives of People with Dementia

How do people with dementia and their carers want to be involved in research? This workshop offers a unique opportunity to hear directly from those with lived experience.

We will explore how to build meaningful involvement into your projects, consider the complexities of co-production, and discuss what approaches work best.

## What you will gain

Clear guidelines for PPIE and co-production in dementia research.

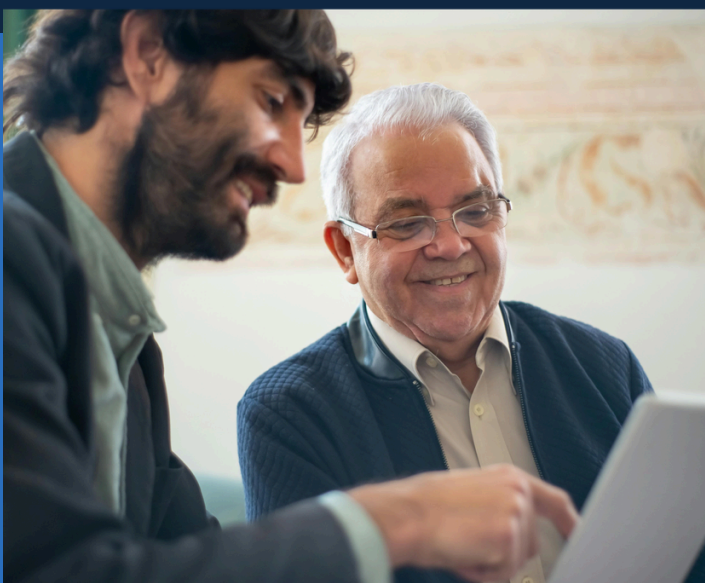
Direct insights from people living with dementia and carers.

Practical ideas for writing about your PPIE approach in funding applications.

Evidence of engagement to strengthen your research proposals.

## Who should attend?

Early career researchers, those new to involving people with dementia in research, and anyone preparing to apply for BRIDGES funding.



## Event Details

**Date:** Thursday, 14 May 2026

**Time:** 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**Format:** Online via Zoom

**Note:** Cameras will be off during the presentation by people with dementia; we invite you to turn them on for the final Q&A.

**Register [here](#).**

# Designing for Sight: How Dementia Changes Vision - An Experiential Workshop

Dementia affects far more than memory. Changes to vision and sensory perception often create unexpected barriers in our environments and technology. This highly interactive, experiential workshop invites you to step into the shoes of a person living with dementia to understand how environment, lighting, and interface design impact daily life.

## What you will gain

- Hands-on experience simulating dementia-related visual changes.
- Actionable guidelines for designing inclusive spaces, interfaces, and devices.
- Concrete examples, such as contrast and signage choices, that can be applied immediately to your work.
- Strategies to strengthen your research proposals and product roadmaps.

## Who should attend:

Researchers, UX/UI designers, tech providers, and industry practitioners working on smart homes, urban design, or assistive technology.

## Event Details

**Date:** Thursday, 21 May 2026

**Time:** 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

**Format:** Online via Zoom  
(Highly interactive: cameras on, focused participation required)

**Limited Spaces:** This session is limited to 20 places - please register early.

**Register [here](#).**



# Our First Collaborative Sandpit: Indoor and Outdoor Spaces

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The BRIDGES Network+ is moving beyond the traditional focus on safety and monitoring. We believe technology should do more than just "watch" - it should empower.

We are hosting our first Collaborative Sandpit, an interactive workshop designed to co-design technologies that help people living with dementia live well, stay connected, and navigate their communities with confidence. This session focuses specifically on our core theme: **Indoor and Outdoor Environments**.

## What is a "Sandpit"?

A Sandpit is a creative, facilitated space where people from completely different backgrounds come together to "play" with ideas. Instead of just listening to a presentation, you will work in small groups to identify challenges and brainstorm tech-based solutions.

**The goal?** To spark innovative project ideas that bridge environmental science, digital innovation, and community integration.

## Why Focus on Environments?

Indoor and outdoor spaces can be difficult to navigate for people living with dementia. Whether it is a confusing supermarket layout or a park with limited signage, the physical world can sometimes feel like a barrier.

We want to explore how technology — such as smart home tools, AI navigation, or community based digital platforms — can make these spaces more accessible and inclusive.

## Who Should Attend?

To create technology that truly works, we need two groups of experts in the room: **Experts by Experience** and **Experts by Profession**.

### For People with Lived Experience

If you are living with dementia or caring for someone who is, your perspective is essential to this process. You understand the daily reality of navigating a supermarket, a park, or your own home. Your insights will ensure that the technologies we develop are practical, respectful, and make a genuine difference to everyday life.

Registration for People with Lived Experience: [Click here to register via our dedicated form](#)

Note: We provide support and compensation for your time and contribution.

### For Researchers, Engineers, and Professionals

We are looking for innovators from across the spectrum – from built environment specialists and data scientists to designers and service providers. This is an opportunity to move your research out of the lab and into the real world, co-creating projects that have a direct pathway to impact.

Registration for Professionals & Researchers: [Click here to book your place via Ticket Tailor](#)

### Event Details

**Date: 28 May 2026, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

**Location: UCL Institute of Education (IOE), 20 Bedford Way,  
London, WC1H 0AL**

**Note: Lunch and refreshments are provided. Places are limited.**

## Partner Highlights

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### **TEDI Innovation Fund**

We are pleased to share an exciting opportunity from our partners at TEDI Network Plus. They have launched their Innovation Fund, offering grants of up to £100,000 for 12 month projects that use technology to help people with dementia live more independently.

TEDI is looking for a wide range of ideas, including apps, smart home tools, and community programmes. You do not need a full team to apply, as TEDI provides a matchmaking service to help you find collaborators with complementary skills.

### **How to Apply**

**Expression of Interest:** Submit a brief outline of your idea by 29 May 2026 to begin the matchmaking process.

**Kick-off Talks:** You can email [TEDI@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:TEDI@northumbria.ac.uk) to book an informal chat to discuss your project idea before applying.

Important Deadlines

**EOI Deadline:** 29 May 2026

**Full Application:** 7 August 2026

**Projects Begin:** January 2027

To find out more and submit your interest, click [here](#).

To find out more about TEDI Network Plus, click [here](#).



## Get in Touch



<https://uk.linkedin.com/company/bridges-network-plus>



<https://bridgesfordementia.org>



[bridgesfordementia@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:bridgesfordementia@sheffield.ac.uk)

**BRIDGES for Dementia Network+** is dedicated to developing technologies that empower people living with dementia to lead full and independent lives. Led by the University of Sheffield, our interdisciplinary network brings together researchers, community partners, and people with lived experience to ensure new tools are trustworthy, inclusive, and effective.

### Our Core Research Themes

**Indoor and Outdoor Spaces:** Enhancing navigation in homes and public areas.

**Arts, Sports, and Culture:** Using creative technologies to support wellbeing and identity.

**Communication:** Building AI and digital tools to keep people connected.

**Technology Translation:** Ensuring innovations are affordable and ethically designed.

### Our Commitment to Lived Experience

We co-design everything with people living with dementia and their carers. By partnering with diverse communities, we ensure lived experience shapes a national research agenda that reflects the community's true needs.

BRIDGES for Dementia Network+ is funded by UKRI (EPSRC), Alzheimer's Society, and the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR).