



BRIDGES

Dementia Network+

June 2026 Newsletter



Welcome to the June 2026 newsletter for BRIDGES for Dementia Network+, where we focus on moving technology beyond simple monitoring to truly empower independent living.

This month, we reflect on the highlights from our recent events, including our highly interactive session on Designing for Sight, and our first Ideas & Innovation Workshop on “**Indoor and Outdoor Spaces**”. We also present opportunities for academics and for people with lived experience, along with key resources from our partners.

Contents

Early Career Researcher Masterclasses.....2

Dementia Design Lab.....3

Good Practice around PPIE and Co-production: Perspectives of People with Dementia.....4

Save the date for our Annual Conference.....5

Designing for Sight: Changing How we See Dementia.....6

Our First Ideas & Innovation Workshop on Indoor and Outdoor spaces.....7

Minding the Gap: How Race Impacts Dementia Research.....8

Partner Highlights.....9

Get in Touch.....11

Early Career Researcher Masterclasses

Are you planning to apply for research funding through BRIDGES? We are excited to offer 18 Early Career Researchers (PhDs, PDRAs, and Fellows) a unique, fully funded opportunity to present and refine their ideas directly with experts by experience.

You will secure an online session with 2–3 people living with dementia and/or carers to pitch your concepts, critique a draft proposal, or workshop your public engagement plans in a supportive, safe environment.

Why You Should Apply

Expert Insights: Direct access to amazing, experienced co-production partners.

Funding Advantage: Gain tangible evidence of Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) for your BRIDGES application.

Project Resources: Receive full recordings of your discussions to review as you develop your proposal.

Zero Cost: All involvement costs are fully covered by BRIDGES.



How to Apply: Skip the Forms, Send a Video!

There are no lengthy application forms to fill out. The selection panel - made up of people with dementia and carers - will choose the successful 18 applicants based entirely on a short video.

The Brief: Create a maximum 2-minute video introducing yourself and explaining why you want and deserve this opportunity.

Where to Send: Email your video link to bridgesfordementia@sheffield.ac.uk.

Deadline: Friday, 19th June 2026

Dementia Design Lab

22nd+23rd JUNE
MANCHESTER

Join us to imagine technology that could make life with dementia better

We're inviting people living with dementia and the people who support them to a creative workshop in Manchester.

Drop in to share what you enjoy, what gets in the way, and dream up ideas for new technology that could make everyday life richer.

What happens on the day?

Join us for one or more of our friendly sessions **between 10am and 3pm each day**. Each session is about two hours long and looks at a different part of life:

22nd
JUNE

Getting around — homes, streets, shops and the places we go.

Arts, sport and things we love — music, making, moving, and culture.

Staying in touch — talking, listening and connecting, in person and online.

Trusting technology — what makes tech useful, trustworthy and affordable.

23rd
JUNE



Who it's for

People with dementia and the people who support them. You don't need any background in technology or design — just a willingness to share your experience and try something creative.

Register today

You can register online or drop us a line

Telephone: 01142 225 506

Email:

bridgesfordementia@sheffield.ac.uk

Click [here](#) to learn more

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

In this online workshop, researchers had the opportunity to explore how to build meaningful involvement from people with dementia and carers into their projects. Hearing directly from those with lived experience, attendees discussed the complexities of co-production and discovered practical, best-practice approaches to strengthen future funding applications.

Missed the session? Click the image below to view it all.



Save the date for our Annual Conference



Date: September 14th 2026

Time: 9:30am – 4:30pm

Location: Mercure Sheffield St. Paul's Hotel and Spa, 119 Norfolk St, Sheffield City Centre, Sheffield S1 2JE

To register your interest, click [here](#).

Designing for Sight: Changing How we See Dementia

On May 21st, Grace Stead from Enrichment for the Elderly led an online experiential workshop exploring how dementia can cause changes to vision and sensory perception, and the barriers that this can introduce to people living with dementia. Highly interactive, the objective of the session was to expand the way dementia-inclusivity can be understood and implemented by researchers and technology providers when forming designs, prototypes and studies. Participants gained insight into various topics, including

- Colour contrast
- The impact of patterns
- Misinterpretation of the environment a person with dementia is in

By understanding these sensory challenges, creators can develop more accessible spaces and innovative tools that significantly improve daily life. We'd like to thank Grace for her time, expertise, and vital insights.

To learn more about the workshop, click [here](#).



Our First Ideas & Innovation Workshop on Indoor and Outdoor spaces



On 28th May 2026, the BRIDGES Network+ held its Ideas & Innovation Event on the Indoor & Outdoor theme at UCL Institute of Education. We brought together people with lived experience, researchers, and innovators - all focused on empowering those with dementia through better designed spaces.

The workshop was inspiring, with participants exploring ideas beyond traditional monitoring. Discussions included how design, environmental science, and AI can offer personalised, context-aware support. Conversations spanned navigation, positive risk-taking, and communication tools.

Thank you to everyone who joined us; your contributions made the day a success! We look forward to the next steps.

If you missed it, click [here](#) to keep updated on future events.

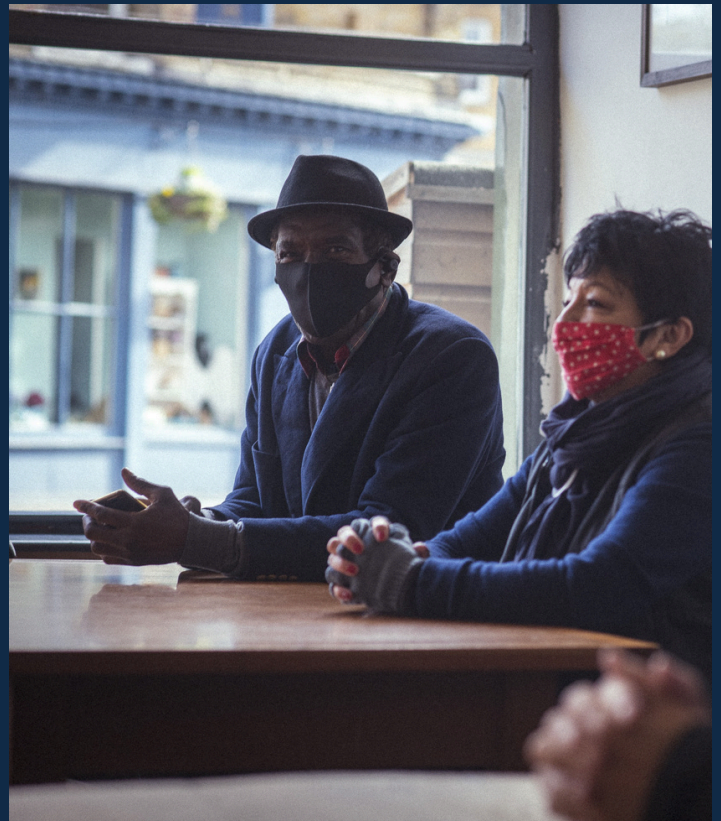
Minding the Gap: How Race Impacts Dementia Research

Dementia doesn't discriminate, but dementia research often does.

While Black, Hispanic, and South Asian populations face a significantly higher risk of developing dementia, the vast majority of clinical trial participants are white. This data gap means treatments and diagnostic tools are built on a narrow foundation - and that has real consequences. Studies show minority groups receive dementia diagnoses up to 40% later, missing early-stage treatments.

The BRIDGES for Dementia Network+ is working to change that. In Sheffield, researchers are meeting communities where they are: hosting workshops with Somali and Chinese centres, employing research champions to provide live translation, and using portable neuroimaging to assess people in their own neighbourhoods. The goal isn't just more inclusive data collection - it's involving underrepresented groups in study design itself.

True brain health for everyone means building trust, breaking down barriers, and ensuring the science reflects the people it's meant to serve. Read the full article [here](#) for a deeper look at the data gap and how inclusive research is shaping a fairer future.



Partner Highlights

Join Dementia Research

Join Dementia Research is a service that connects members of the public interested in supporting dementia research, with researchers tackling issues facing those affected by dementia.

The service is free for both the public and researchers. Individuals over the age of 18 can sign up to hear about studies that interest them, allowing researchers using the service the opportunity to reach people who might be interested in supporting their study. However, individuals are under no obligation to participate in any study they are matched with.

Watch **this video** to find out more about how the service works and sign up today on the **Join Dementia Research website**. Alternatively, if you are a researcher who would like to know more, click **here**.



Join Dementia Research



Delivered in partnership by
NIHR | National Institute for
Health and Care Research

Join Dementia Research is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care



Partner Highlights

Working with Dementia Network Plus

Working with Dementia Network Plus offers a wealth of practical resources and insights on dementia and employment.

Highlights include recordings and a brochure from their March 2026 conference, research projects on workplace inclusion and employment tribunal analysis, a webinar series (with a second series launching Autumn 2026), infographics on inclusive workplaces and economic costs, and downloadable guides tailored for employers, employees, HR professionals, and colleagues. You can explore everything on their resources page **here**.

To stay up to date with Working with Dementia Network Plus' latest work, you can subscribe to the Monthly Digest newsletter **here**.



Get in Touch



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



<https://bridgesfordementia.org>



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).