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# About us

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Image: Stevenage Dementia Involvement Group meeting

Stevenage Dementia Involvement Group provides opportunities for people with experience of dementia to have influence on research and the planning of new services.

The group began in 2020 and meets once a month to talk about topics that matter to people living with dementia and their carers.

At each session, we welcome a guest speaker who shares their work or ideas. The group then has an open conversation, sharing thoughts, questions, and personal experiences to help guide the guest's project.



# Our highlights

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## Impact on Research

### Influenced

research by joining  
**2** stakeholder panels on  
large studies

### Shaped

Theme research  
priorities within a  
major ARC funding bid

### Contributed

valuable feedback on  
over **20** projects and  
initiatives

### Included

in two research  
grant applications



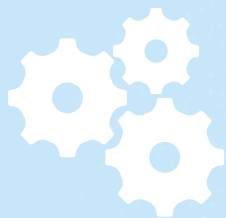
## Sharing Voices

### Presented

at the 2025 ARC  
Dementia Festival  
during Dementia Action  
Week sharing  
experience

### Featured

in a published  
article on  
gardening at The  
Red Shed



## Community Change

### Input into

the development of NHS  
England's Dementia Urgent  
Care Plan

### Inspired

The development of a  
new walking group for  
people with dementia

### Supported

the creation of a  
Dementia-  
Friendly Activities  
guide for  
Stevenage  
Borough Council.



# What we said





**I am so pleased to be given the opportunity to be involved with the group and know that my thoughts and feelings are being listened to and hopeful that this may lead to positive change**

**Ann, Group member**

**Being involved with the group enables me to contribute my experiences and it also gives an ear to a wider audience. Each and every person challenged by dementia is different, there is no one size fits all.**

**Keith, Group member**

What we said

# Dementia Friendly Stevenage

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## We said:

- **Awareness of dementia is key** in places that people living with dementia regularly visit (e.g. shops, doctors, bus station.)
- **Signage** needs to be clear and accessible.
- Dementia friendly is **inclusive to all**.
- Benches around Stevenage Town to be accessible (e.g. back support)
- **Education** about dementia to start early (primary school)

An important topic area we have discussed is how to make Stevenage a more dementia friendly place to live.



- Researchers from the University of Hertfordshire visited us to talk about their project on dementia friendly activity in Stevenage and our feedback contributed to their Dementia Friendly booklet.
- We shared our experiences of living in Stevenage and what would help to make the area more dementia friendly with Stevenage Borough Council.
- We are now part of the Dementia Sub Group that is working towards making Stevenage a more dementia friendly place to live



A photograph of two women smiling. The woman in the foreground has short dark hair and is wearing a pearl earring. The woman in the background is slightly out of focus. A light blue speech bubble with rounded corners is overlaid on the image, containing text.

**The group provided valuable feedback about the design of the [dementia friendly booklet], other activities they were aware of that we had not included and ways in which we could promote the resource**

Dr Becki Hadley, University of Hertfordshire



What we said

# Dementia Friendly Healthcare

## We said:

- **Communication**  
between different health services in Stevenage is really important
- **More information**  
about support is required not only at first diagnosis but throughout the dementia journey
- **Extra support**  
from staff at hospitals where the needs of people living with dementia are understood makes all the difference

We have welcomed a number of guests with topics around healthcare.



- Researchers from the University of Hertfordshire visited us to discuss sharing dementia diagnosis and making hospitals dementia friendly.
- NHS England asked for our feedback on a new dementia urgent care form that is going to be rolled out next year.
- Staff from local NHS Trust organisations visited to discuss how to improve their dementia services including improving the experience during NHS imaging services.





**What a lovely group! The group identified how the form presented could be simplified and the suggestions have all been incorporated. They were constructive and supportive and a really fab bunch.**

Colin Royle, NHS England

What we said

# Dementia Friendly Technology

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## We said:

- Lots of people we know still **do not go online** or use their phone regularly
- **Fluctuations in ability** should be considered
- **Support** can be given to help people use technology
- Technology can **enable** people to do things they wouldn't usually be able to do
- Technology should be **simple and accessible** to all

Technology and dementia is an area that research is increasing in. A number of guests visited to speak with us about this.



- A researcher from University of East Anglia visited to discuss a study on Global Positioning System (GPS) location devices for people with dementia.
- We were the first group in the UK to be consulted about the Memory Aid Device (nominated for the Longitudinal prize for Dementia).
- We provided feedback on two University of Hertfordshire studies: virtual wards for people with dementia and social wellbeing and technology.



The background image is a blurred photograph of a train interior. In the foreground, on the right side, is the profile of an older man with white hair and a beard, wearing glasses. The rest of the image is a soft-focus view of train carriages with windows and interior lights.

**Feedback from the group will be used to inform our future work package which will look to explore both facilitating factors of tech adoption and barriers to this**

Dr Alison Tingle, University of Hertfordshire



# Looking Ahead





**We want to see real change in our community, working with local researchers and services to make Stevenage and Hertfordshire a more dementia-friendly place for everyone**

Nicole Jones, Co-founder of the Stevenage Dementia Involvement Group

# What's next?

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- We continue to get involved with both Stevenage and Hertfordshire's Dementia Friendly Community initiative.
- We supported the charity Dementia Adventure to secure funding for an evaluation of their Green Letter Days which we look forward to being involved with going forward.
- We continue to work closely and share our experience and voice with Memory Support Hertfordshire.





# Find out more and get involved:



[arc-eoe.nihr.ac.uk/stevenage-dementia-involvement-group](http://arc-eoe.nihr.ac.uk/stevenage-dementia-involvement-group)



[ARCOffice@cpft.nhs.uk](mailto:ARCOffice@cpft.nhs.uk)



[@ARC\\_EoE](https://twitter.com/ARC_EoE)



# Thank you

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**Thank you to all our group members and all the guests that visited.**

This group is organised by researchers from the University of Hertfordshire as part of the National Institute of Health Research Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) East of England.

For more information, or if you are interested in joining or visiting the group, please visit our website <https://arc-eoe.nihr.ac.uk/stevenage-dementia-involvement-group>.

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## Get in touch with

### The Stevenage Dementia Involvement Group

For more information, visit our  
website or scan the QR code:

[arc-ee.nihr.ac.uk/stevenage-  
dementia-involvement-group](https://arc-ee.nihr.ac.uk/stevenage-dementia-involvement-group)



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**@ARC\_EoE**