The Dementia Training and Education Strategy (DTES) for Gloucestershire provides a pathway of training to support Health and Social care staff with a role in Dementia and community members that want to offer additional activities and support to those around them. The DTES is directly linked to the county-wide Gloucestershire Dementia Strategy, both are committed to co-production and collaboration between those living with dementia and those delivering statutory, community and voluntary services.

Carol Barton and Tredworth Memory Café aims to support local individuals who are experiencing memory difficulties. It aims to offer a relaxing opportunity once a month for people to meet, share experiences and to get some welcome support and advice. A variety of activities are also provided.

Saleha: Leading on translation into various languages of the board game. Led on education taster sessions for carers of people attending B&T Memory Café

Di: Schools Project: All of us working with the Intergenerational Dementia Project have been moved and inspired by the way that the children have responded to the issues and challenges facing people living with dementia; their compassion and enthusiasm to make a difference in their community. The project has also helped the young people develop acceptance, tolerance, empathy and understanding of diversity. The current project involves different community members as well as professional staff delivering up to 12 different sessions to senior school children.

The Chance to Chat project is about keeping memories alive and so helping to preserve and develop relationships. A series of postcards have been designed using personal, local and national images. These help stimulate conversation and memories, which can be passed on by writing and sending the postcard. A training programme is available to support carers to use the postcards.

Saleha: is working with Chris to develop postcards with culturally sensitive images.

The Community Dementia Link (CDL) course aims to deliver bespoke education packages to those public members outside of statutory roles and encourages confidence in individuals and groups to carry out projects that involve and support the person with dementia and their carers. The course aims to meet the needs of the local community as well as the group and is usually held over 4 separate sessions. Once completed, members are encouraged to participate in the wider DTES support network via monthly forums. These support forums are for anyone who has completed the education pathway.

Coaching and mentoring Community dementia links:
Community Dementia Links are supported by a Dementia Education Facilitator. The purpose of the coaching and mentoring scheme is to ensure that groups are confident and competent in supporting their communities and links individuals across Gloucestershire. A small group of focused and determined CDLs have established themselves as leads on dementia and sharing their ideas has led to some dynamic and innovative work.

Laura: The Gloucestershire Young Onset Network evolved in 2017 to help carers of those with a diagnosis of dementia feel more connected with the organisations there to support them. It also ensures that the support offered is tailored to meet the needs of those with a diagnosis under the age of 65. A pilot is currently being held of county-wide café evening sessions for carers who work and are unable to access alternative support services.

Forest of Dean Locality:
Informal community dementia awareness sessions
Forest of Dean now employs five part time Dementia Friendly Community enablers to have conversations and raise awareness of dementia. Two communities have set up and developed two memory groups which are completely volunteer run. Number at both fluctuate but are on average 20 people. They are inclusive to all in their community, not just dementia.

Lena: Let’s talk Dementia Board Game, a unique resource which introduces dementia using a more positive approach, it gently includes a fun element making it ideal to be used across generations, in family homes, care homes, organisations and community settings.

Funding was secured to reproduce the game for distribution within Gloucestershire. People can loan out the game via their local library and we are distributing games via the DTES and other local grass roots connections.

Chris: Memory walks: Regular gentle park walks designed to be accessible for those living with all stages of dementia and anyone who would benefit from some gentle exercise while enjoying the experience of nature. Volunteers trained to support the walks help to create a supportive environment for participants and carers.

Emma: Dementia friendly Stroud district: Stroud District Council agreed to work towards becoming a dementia friendly district. Dementia awareness training was offered to all Council staff. Dementia friendly actions groups for each town are being formed in the District. The dementia action volunteers promote dementia awareness training for local people and businesses, memory groups and other services. Good ideas between the towns are shared.

Nailsworth: The Nailsworth group recently audited their GP practice and made recommendations for how to be more dementia friendly. Local residents and volunteers became community dementia links and are looking to make businesses dementia friendly. Nailsworth churches have signed up to be dementia friendly and to support their local population.

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