

Royal Victoria Hospital Meeting Centre: Community Support In A Hospital Setting

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This project was inspired by the late Ron Coleman, former Chairperson of Meeting Centres Scotland. Following his own experience, as a person living with dementia, Ron saw the gap between community support and hospital reality. His vision that the Meeting Centre should follow people into hospital became the catalyst for this initiative.

INTRODUCTION	METHODS	RESULTS	CONCLUSIONS	REFERENCES
• The Meeting Centre model originated in the Netherlands in the 1990s • A Meeting Centre is a local resource that offers on-going warm and friendly expert and peer support • Meeting Centres are based on sound research evidence from over 30 years. • Funded by NHS Tayside Charitable Foundation and led by Meeting Centres Scotland • Co-designed with National Health Service staff, academic partners, and people with lived experience.	A mixed methods approach: • Hospital metrics – length of stay, readmission rates stress and distress • Standardised health and wellbeing assessments • EQ5-D • SWEMWBS • UCLA Loneliness scale • Qualitative feedback from patients, families, staff and students • Individual case studies demonstrating feedback	Expected outcomes: • Reduced distress and increased well-being • Greater resilience for care partners • Enhanced staff confidence and retention • Skilled professionals with dementia experience • A replicable model for hospital Meeting Centres • Reduced referrals to and prescribing by psychiatry	• People living with dementia often face increased confusion and anxiety during hospital stays due to unfamiliar environments and disrupted routines. • The Meeting Centre provides a structured, therapeutic space offering tailored activities including cognitive stimulation, creative arts, music therapy, and intergenerational family sessions. • The Centre supports patients and their families while alleviating pressure on NHS staff.	Bray J, Evans S (2026;). <i>Loneliness and social isolation: what role can meeting centres for people affected by dementia in the United Kingdom play?</i>. Working with Older People, Vol. ahead-of-print No. ahead-of-print. https://doi.org/10.1108/WWOP-10-2025-0051 Brooker D, Evans S, Evans S, Bray J, Atkinson T et al (2018) Evaluation of the implementation of the Meeting Centres Support Program in Italy, Poland, and the UK: exploration of the effects on people with dementia. <i>Int J Geriatr Psychiatry</i>. 2018;33(7) 883-892. Evans, S.B., Evans, S.C., Brooker, D., Henderson, C., Atkinson, T., Bray, J., et al (2018). The impact of the implementation of the Dutch combined Meeting Centres Support Programme for family caregivers of people with dementia in Italy, Poland and UK. <i>Aging & Mental Health</i>, 24(2), 280-290. Evans, S., Brooker, D., Bray, J., Stephens, N., (2022). The Essential Features of Meeting Centres: development of the UK criteria for community support for people affected by dementia, <i>Working with Older People</i>, Vol. 27 No. 3, pp. 191-201. https://doi.org/10.1108/WWOP-03-2022-0009 Stephens, N., Evans, S., Russell, C., & Brooker, D. (2023). Understanding 'value' in the context of community-based interventions for people affected by dementia: A concept analysis. <i>Journal of Advanced Nursing</i>, 00, 1–13. https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.15886 CONTACT  shirley.evans@worc.ac.uk graham@meetingcentres.scot ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION AAIC>26