EMPOWER Dementia Network+

EMPOWER Dementia Network +

MARCH 2025
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

Dear EMPOWER Colleagues,

We hope you are well. Our Network is excited to share some of the latest developments and progress we have made together.

We want to start by thanking our People with Lived Experience of Dementia Group – EMPOWER (PLEDGE) members and the Butterflies Memory Loss Support Group in Hull for their invaluable feedback in creating the EMPOWER logo.

Co-creation Workshops

Over the past few months, our incredible community partners have been running their own co-creation workshops, ensuring that the voices of people with dementia and their carers from across the UK are heard. So far, we have had six additional co-creation workshops:

- In December 2024, Dr Ayokunmi Okebode led a session in **Mansfield, Nottinghamshire**. Additionally, **Rowcroft Hospice** hosted a workshop in Torquay, led by Rowcroft nurse Anna Cawrse and Dr Gill Horne, and the PLEDGE panel held an **online co-creation** workshop facilitated by Faye Watson, our Public and Community Engagement Consultant.
- In January, we collaborated with Councillor Dr Manju Shahul-Hameed to host a workshop at the **Croydon Dementia Café**.
- In February, both the **Butterflies Memory Loss Support Group** in Hull and **Health Innovation** Kent Surrey Sussex led workshops.

These workshops brought together people with dementia, their carers, and professionals to build the vision of our Network and discuss what excellent and inclusive dementia care looks like to them. Thank you to everyone who planned and attended these events.

Team Croydon

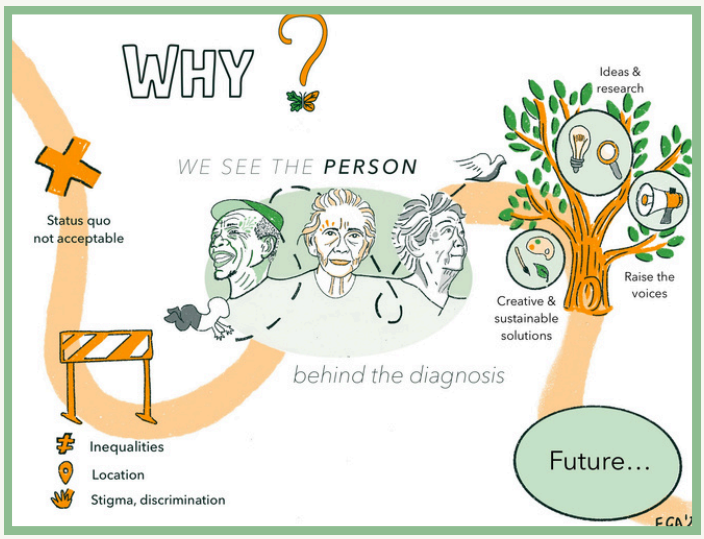
Team Butterflies

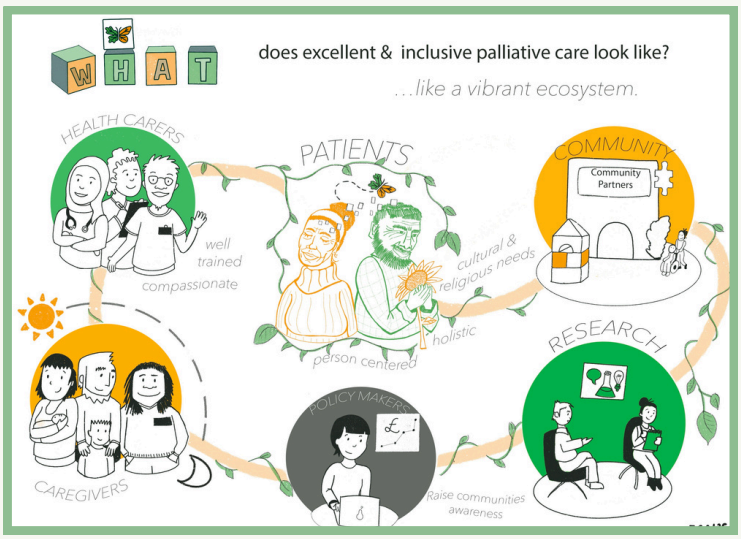
Team Sussex

Our Vision

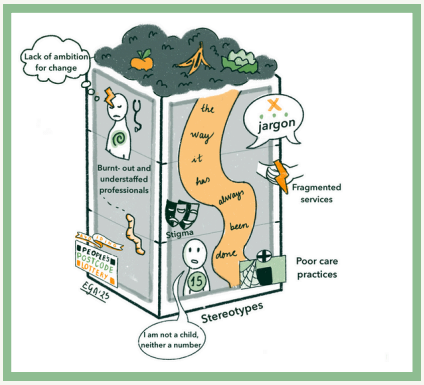
In February, the EMPOWER team came together to begin collating input from across co-creation workshops to build a first draft of our shared vision for our Network and for what excellent and inclusive dementia care looks like. The process for this was captured beautifully by our graphic illustrator Eugenia Garcia Amor.

We then met with PLEDGE, our panel of lived experience experts, to refine and strengthen this vision with their invaluable feedback. It has been like knitting together a blanket from many patchwork squares where each piece represents the voices and experiences of people living with dementia and their carers. We have used people's own words as much as possible to honour their lived experiences.





This is an ongoing, iterative process. Our vision will continue to evolve as we hold more co-creation workshops and bring in the diverse voices of more people with dementia and their family carers. Once we have incorporated PLEDGE's feedback, we will share this refined draft with our community partners, who have been instrumental in shaping this work.



Why This Matters

Our co-created vision will help shape the future of the EMPOWER Dementia Network+. It will guide criteria for which we fund small research projects, guide our priorities as we progress, and strengthen our network's impact by making sure we focus on the right things in the right ways.

Illustrations: Eugenia Garcia Amor

Growing Our Lived Experience Panel

We are looking for ways to expand our lived experience panel. Therefore, if you or someone you know from an ethnic minority, rural, or underserved community would like to be involved, please reach out! We would love to hear from you.

Upcoming Developments & Events

Online Presence

Work has begun on our EMPOWER online hub, set to launch in March 2025. It will serve as an interactive space to connect with the network, showcase our work, and share best practices, resources, and ideas.

Policy Lab

Our policy lab will take place on Wednesday 26 March 2025. This is where we will start to translate our vision for inclusive dementia care into calls to action.

Funding Opportunities

We will soon launch our funding opportunities. Funds will be available for small projects that promote excellent and inclusive dementia care. We are working to develop the small project funding with PLEDGE and our community partners. We plan to open for expressions of interest in May 2025. So start thinking about your ideas!

UK Dementia & Palliative Care Conference 2025

Rowcroft Hospice is hosting the UK Dementia & Palliative Care Conference 2025 on Tuesday, 25 March, at Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre, Devon. This event will provide valuable insights into the latest advancements in dementia care and the crucial role of palliative care in improving the quality of life for those living with dementia. **Tickets are now available.**

Communication

Moving forward, the EMPOWER newsletter will be shared every three months, allowing us to celebrate progress and updates with our Network in each edition.

Thank you for being part of EMPOWER.
Catherine, Emma, Andy, Stefanny & Laiba

Want to stay up to date?
Click below.