

Community Response to Dementia - Case Study



KCoRD a community based project to enable people with dementia to be able to remain active in their homes and local communities, and be supported in returning home following periods spent in residential facilities.



A collaboration among the Primary Care Team and other agencies including Kinsale day care centre, the Alzheimer Society of Ireland and various community organisations, mirroring an internationally trend towards a social model of dementia.

KCoRD @ Work: Through a consultative process with the Person with Dementia (PwD), their carers, and service providers, K-CoRD encouraged the appropriate provision of services and responses that need to be in place in the community. Individualised support plans consisted of signposting, social support, the K-CoRD Café, innovative day care, assistive technologies and carer support and education. Supportive packages of care that enable the PwD to live better in the community, as well as reducing carer burden.

CareZapp empowers people to create personalised care and support networks, connecting both formal and informal caregivers to enable a better quality of life and lower long-term care costs. The platform provides communication and collaboration tools, the ability to personalise care plans and utilise sensor technologies to provide continuous monitoring, issuing notifications and alerts to inform the network on daily activities, health, wellbeing, safety and security.

Impact: Typically installed by families of the PwD for their peace of mind and good night's sleep! It also meant that the PwD could continue living independently as normal without any interruption to their lifestyle, the platform being a tremendous tool for the Carer/Responder in indicating any deviation from the norm on which they could take appropriate action based on their own backup plans. Demonstrating benefits to PwD, caregivers and the HSE, including significant savings at €200K+ based on a small cohort.

"...she has had another year at home, which probably she mightn't have had if she had continued the way she was... (Carer)

"...while working you can check in on whether someone has gone out of the door or that there is movement in such a room in the house." (Carer)

Key Benefits

- Cost effective community based support, maximises safety and security.
- Reduced impact on residential and acute care systems.
- Promotes independent living at home, reducing burden on caregivers.

Industry

Health, Social Care, Community Care, Family Carers

Project Profile

KCoRD (Kinsale Community Response to Dementia) is a community based person-centred response to dementia. The project was funded by the GENIO Dementia Project, which itself is funded by Atlantic Philanthropies and the Irish Health Service Executive.

Building on an established tradition of collaborative working in the Kinsale Primary Care Team, the K-CORD consortium optimized the supports, services and facilities available to people with dementia and their carers through early diagnosis and intervention; innovative respite; education and assistive technology.

Challenges: To improve the quality of life for people with dementia (PwD) and their carers through collaborative learning, planning and action on the part of professionals and engaged citizens in the locality.

Project leads: Deirdre Cullen - Occupational Therapy Manager HSE South (Project Lead) and Dr Tony Foley - Kinsale Medical Centre, Ann Twomey (Former Carer) – Patient Advocate.

Solution: Combines person-centered care and support, augmented by technologies to allow people with dementia to remain in their own homes

Further resources:

<https://www.genio.ie/our-impact/measuring-impact?programme-area=dementia&page=1>

www.genio.ie
www.carezapp.com