

## PriDem Intervention

Welcome to the July edition of the PriDem Newsletter. This month, we will update you on the work we are focusing on during the final months of the study.

**The PriDem study will come to an end on September 30th. This is also when our last newsletter will be sent out. Thank you to all who have participated. Your perspectives on the intervention have been immensely valuable.**

## News

PriDem researchers recently visited Brighton for the **Society for Academic Primary Care Conference (SAPC)**. Here, they presented the findings of the study and gained valuable feedback.



PriDem researchers, Sarah Griffiths (right) and Emily Spencer (left) representing PriDem at SAPC.

In addition, researchers will present at the **Alzheimer's Europe Conference** in Helsinki in October. Here, our researchers will present on three different topics related to improving post-diagnostic care for people with memory and thinking difficulties.

We also published a blog about **ways to include people with memory and thinking difficulties in research**. The blog was published this month and is available to read online.

## Care Plan Audit

In the last newsletter, we introduced you to the Care Plan Audit part of the project. The Care Plan Audit involves a random sample of patients with memory and thinking difficulties from participating GP practices. Within this audit, we were looking at the **quantity and quality of 'personalised care plans'** for each patient. We compared the presence of a "personalised care plan" between a pre-Covid year (2018-2019) to the PriDem intervention year (2022-2023). We are looking to see if there is a change in the number of patients who have a care plan.

We also are looking to see which areas of care are covered in the plan and how 'personalised' the plans are. An example of a personalised care plan would be if the patients and carers were invited to think about what is important to them when it comes to their care and support. **The early findings seem promising.** They suggest that the number of patients with a personalised care plan increased from around 37% to 65% during the PriDem intervention year (2018-2019). We are looking in more detail at the findings and will be able to report these in the next newsletter.

## Research Update

Researchers in the Northeast and Southeast have completed visits with participants to complete the 9-month follow-up health and wellbeing questionnaires.

**We are grateful** to all those who have taken part in interviews with us so far. Your perspectives on the intervention challenges, successes and suggestions for the future are invaluable.

# Staff Updates

## What next for the lead researchers?



Dr Sarah Griffiths (Senior researcher and PriDem Study Manager, University College London) has been awarded funding from both the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Alzheimer's Society to develop training resources for members of the care team who work alongside GPs (such as social prescribers, practice nurses, dementia advisors and care co-ordinators).

Focusing on communication, the training will support these staff to have **personalised care planning conversations** with people with memory and thinking difficulties and carers, finding out what really matters to people, and creating care plans based on people's priorities. The training will also address **how staff teams can work best with each other, the person with memory and thinking difficulties**, to jointly develop and share care plans. Sarah's experience on the PriDem project, and her background as a speech and language therapist, have informed her research. She looks forward to continuing to work with Barnet primary care staff and Age UK. Sarah's new Alzheimer's Society funded project will run from January 2023–December 2025.

For more information contact Sarah:

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Dr Marie Poole (Senior Research Associate, Newcastle University) has been awarded funding from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) for a post-doctoral fellowship and a Career Development Award to explore joined up health and social care for people with thinking and memory difficulties that are from underserved communities.



She will focus on how the new **Integrated Care Systems** in England can support people with diverse needs and will be finding out how football clubs and associations can help to **support people with memory and thinking difficulties and their families after a dementia diagnosis**. Marie's experience on the PriDem project, other projects, and her personal interest in football have informed her research. Marie will continue to work as part of Dame Professor Louise Robinson's research team in Newcastle and continues to lead on the Dementia Care Community (DCC).

For more information please contact Marie:

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**We look forward to updating you again at the end of the study.**