2017 was a great year for the Network

Let's make 2018 even better!

2017 was a busy year with over 1000 members joining the Young Dementia Network. We had a stand at six major dementia conferences where we supported people with young onset dementia to talk about their experience and influenced, enabled and encouraged good practice amongst professionals.

Through the Network we connected 17 Occupational Therapists across the UK and, more recently, linked 32 young onset dementia services so they can share ideas and ways of working.

Coming up in 2018, we plan to host webinars that you can be involved in, we'll be creating GP waiting room resources that you can help us develop and we're organising a young onset dementia conference on 20 September, so watch out for more details in our newsletters.

We could not have achieved so much in the past year without you, so thank you for your support and here's to a productive 2018!

Best wishes

Donna
National Development Manager

Royal College of General Practitioners endorsement

Following a four-month long pilot project and endorsement by the Royal College of GPs, we are pleased to announce that our young onset dementia decision-making guide for GPs is now available.

The guide aims to highlight ‘red flags’ for GPs regarding young onset dementia, that may lead onto a referral to a memory clinic.
We will be sending copies to GP surgeries but with over 34,000 GPs currently working in the UK, we need your help to ensure as many as possible are made aware of the guide.

Please share a link or copy of the guide with your GP, you can download it [here](#). Alternatively, to receive copies in the post, please email us at network@youngdementiauk.org.

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**Calling all GPs - a request for help**

*Are you a GP with a few minutes spare to fill out a short survey?*

During the pilot phase of our decision-making guide for GPs, GPs told us that an online or interactive version would be beneficial.

There is the potential to make this happen but we first need a bit more information.

We have created a survey for GPs that should take less than two minutes to complete. You can access the survey [here](#).

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**Running the London Marathon for the Young Dementia Network**

*Steering group member, Dominique Kent, is going to run the London Marathon for us.*

All of the money that Dominique raises will go towards funding the work of the Understanding and Awareness workstream, who have recently developed the GP Guide. To read more please visit her fundraising page [here](#).

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**Angela Project Newsletter**

*Latest news and updates from the project*

The Angela Project is a research project investigating the services and support systems currently available to younger people living with dementia, their families and carers. Some of the researchers who are involved in the Angela Project are members of the Young Dementia Network Steering Group.

Their aim is to improve diagnosis and post-diagnostic support for younger people living with the condition. For the most recent update about the Angela Project, please view their newsletter [here](#).
Save the date - 20 September 2018

A date has been set for Young Dementia 2018, a conference hosted by the Journal of Dementia Care in association with YoungDementia UK.

We have not finalised the programme as yet so if there is anything that you would like us to consider for inclusion, please contact us at network@youngdementiauk.org.

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A message from the Royal Surgical Aid Society (RSAS)

'Thank you to those of you who have already signed up to attend one of our programmes during 2018. We have some spaces on two of the programmes running in February and April 2018 which will cater exclusively for young onset carers. The dates are

27 February–1 March 2018 - Eaton Hotel, Edgbaston
27–29 April 2018 - St Johns Hotel, Solihull

Please visit here for more details.

'The RSAS dementia carers’ charity is developing new programmes to help family carers build knowledge and confidence and needs carers to take part in these early pilots which are being evaluated by Worcester University.

'Our three-day programmes in hotels in Birmingham and Solihull are currently free, including food and accommodation. So, if you would like to help and, in return, have a break from caring and learn some new things then please get in touch with RSAS here.'

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Research Review - New for 2018

In up-coming Network newsletters, we plan to share a review of a piece of research that relates to young onset dementia.

The piece will be picked by a researcher and commented on by a Network steering group member who is living with young onset dementia.

The first article titled ‘Age-appropriate services for people diagnosed with young onset dementia’ has been reviewed by Professor Jacqueline Parkes. You can read her review here.

Wendy Mitchell who is living with young onset dementia said about the article -

'What it clearly shows is how little research has been done in this area. It didn’t really seem to go into as much detail as I would have thought but maybe that’s just as significant.

'People diagnosed with young onset dementia have a unique need; no more important than those later in life, but unique all the same. The complexities of family life, relationships, finance, employment and future needs are clearly not being addressed and there appears to be little evidence to highlight any consistent approach to the challenges faced. Obviously more specific research is needed is this area.'

You can find the original research article here.
And finally, don’t let us lose contact with you!

On 25 May 2018, data protection laws will change. This will mean that unless our charity can show that you have chosen to receive our mailings, we may have to stop sending them to you.

Please take a moment to officially sign up as a Network member and confirm the mailings you wish to receive in future via this link.

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