

# Building Bridges

An AHP practice education programme at  
Alzheimer Scotland **2013–2016**



*Informed, skilled, inspired*

# Art Psychotherapy, Dietetics, Music Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech and Language Therapy

# A New Generation

Every year, hundreds of allied health professionals graduate from Scottish universities. Some will go on to become dementia specialists however we know that all will have some contact with people living with dementia and their families either personally or professionally. It is important that AHP students are ready for their work to improve the lives and experiences of people living with dementia and in preparation they need opportunities to connect with people living with dementia.

Our Alzheimer Scotland AHP Practice Education Programme is a partnership approach to supporting our future AHP workforce develop their dementia practice in line with Promoting Excellence at the informed and skilled levels (Scottish Government, 2011) through offering students:

- Experience of working with people living with dementia, therefore contributing to the skills of the future AHP workforce.
- First-hand experience of Alzheimer Scotland as the leading organisation in dementia.

And people who come to Alzheimer Scotland:

- The opportunity to work with a range of allied health professionals for mutual benefit.

Over three years, 100+ AHP students\*,  
interns and volunteers will have  
participated.

100+

Numbers

17

Occupational  
Therapy  
Students

18

Dietetics  
Students

2

Music Therapy  
Students

56

Speech &  
Language  
Therapy  
Students

6

Occupational  
Therapy  
Interns

1

Music  
Therapy  
Intern

4

Media  
Students

7

Art  
Psychotherapy  
Students

3

Physiotherapy  
Students

\*numbers accurate on 13 October 2016

# Partnerships

Adrienne McDermid-Thomas , AHP Practice education facilitator and Elaine Hunter AHP Consultant coordinate the programme, working within Alzheimer Scotland to develop partnerships to support AHP Placements

**6** Partnerships have been developed with Higher Education Institutions

- **Queen Margaret University**
- **Glasgow Caledonian University**
- **Robert Gordon University**
- **University of Strathclyde**
- **York St John University**
- **Glasgow Clyde College**

Placements and internships have also been supported by AHPs from 8 NHS Boards, the AHP Practice Education team at NHS Education for Scotland, the Scottish Dementia Working Group, Santander Universities and by the respective professional bodies.

A pilot of the Ryan Harper Model ran in partnership with PAMIS

A strategic alliance between Alzheimer Scotland and Queen Margaret University (1 April 2015) has strengthened the dialogue and programme of work with the development of AHP Internships, an Alzheimer Scotland AHP PhD studentship and a new AHP dementia MSc module on rights based AHP practice





# Passion & inspiration

*"This was a brilliant experience for me to undertake at this level in my studies because it has sort of sparked a 'What if?' type feeling in me. I think I will be a little more creative in my thinking about how I might use the skills I've gained as an OT student to explore where else I could work and who with."*

**(Occupational Therapy Student 2015)**

*"For me, it showed me how positive you can be living with dementia and highlighted it wasn't all negative."*

**(Speech and Language Therapy Student 2015)**

**During their time at Alzheimer Scotland, 100+ Students and Interns have:**

### **Experienced Alzheimer Scotland services and support**

Dementia Cafes, Dementia Resource Centres, Day Services, Community Activities, Dementia Advisors, Dementia Dogs, Scottish Dementia Working Group



### **Introduced therapeutic approaches**

Art, Music, Exercise, Occupation, Diet



### **Created useful resources**

Top tips, sensory equipment, communication aids, assessment and treatment tools, service audits and proposals, educational worksheets.



### **Developed Skills, Knowledge and Understanding**

120 Dementia Friends, Promoting Excellence, Models of Practice: 5 Pillars, 8 Pillars, Advanced Dementia

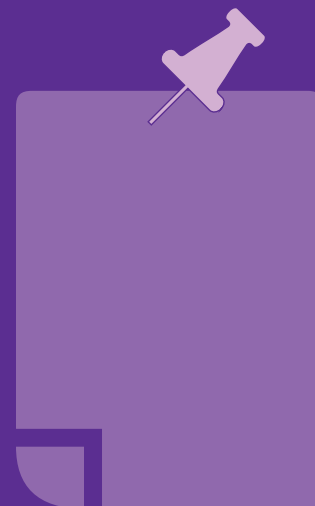


Daily tweets using | **Twitter**  
hashtag: **#AHPDementia**



**30+**  
**Blog** Entries

**4** **Dementia**  
**in Scotland**  
Articles



**6**  
**Conference**  
Poster Presentations



| **@AHPDementia**  
**Instagram**  
account



**2** **Photography**  
Projects



**Activities and Impact**

# Keep in touch



#AHPDementia  
#ConnectingPeople  
#ConnectingSupport

AHPs at Alzheimer Scotland are asking for feedback from the people living with dementia they meet. Following time spent together with an AHP student, a simple question is asked...

*"What was important for you?"*

If you would like to get in touch,  
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