

An Occupational Therapy Internship Programme Supporting a Workforce Skilled in Dementia Care

#AHPConnectingPeople

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Alzheimer Scotland
Action on Dementia

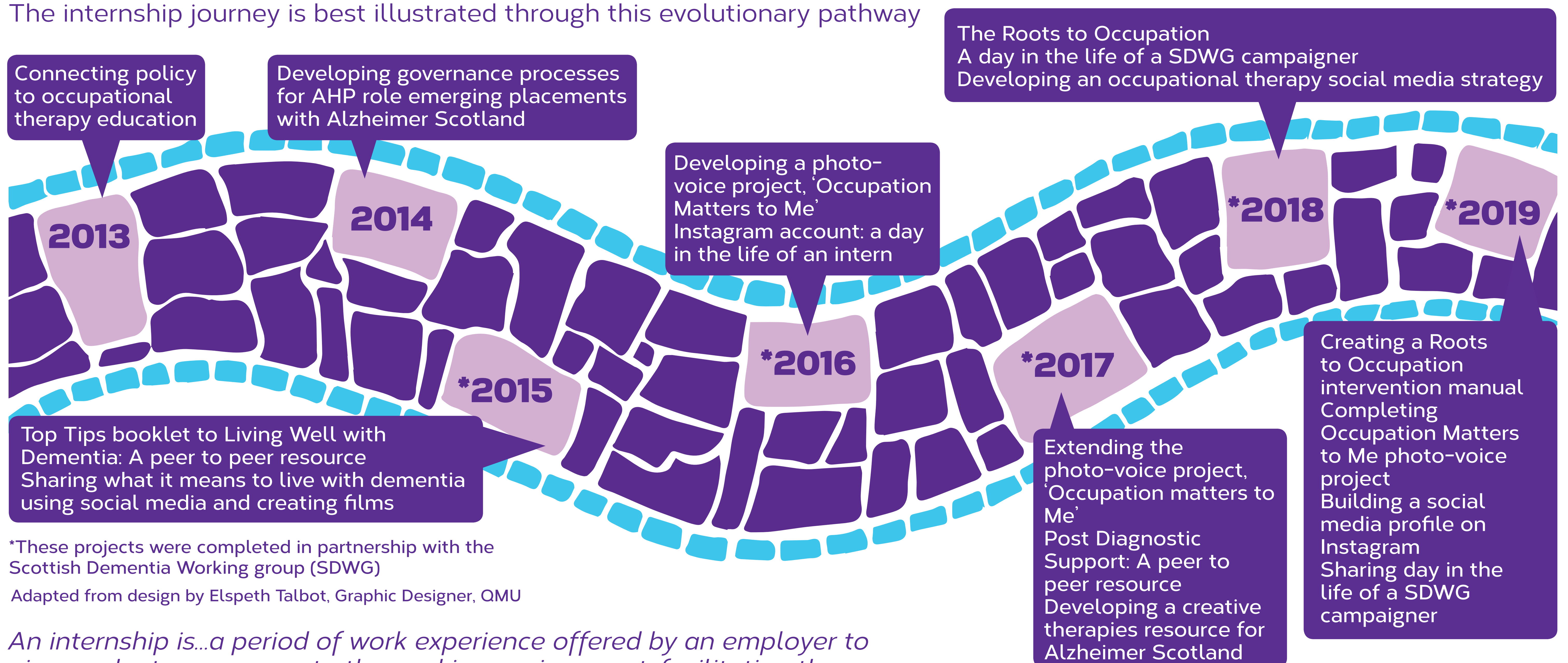
Introduction

Training and education of the current and future health and social care workforce is key to the transformational changes required to improve the experience and outcomes of care and treatment for people living with dementia and their families (Alzheimer Scotland 2017).

One approach to enhance dementia skills with occupational therapists has been through an innovative academic internship programme in partnership with the Scottish Dementia Working Group, Queen Margaret University, Santander Universities UK and Alzheimer Scotland.

The internship pathway

The internship journey is best illustrated through this evolutionary pathway



An internship is...a period of work experience offered by an employer to give graduates exposure to the working environment, facilitating the development of knowledge and skills, which relates to their field of study...

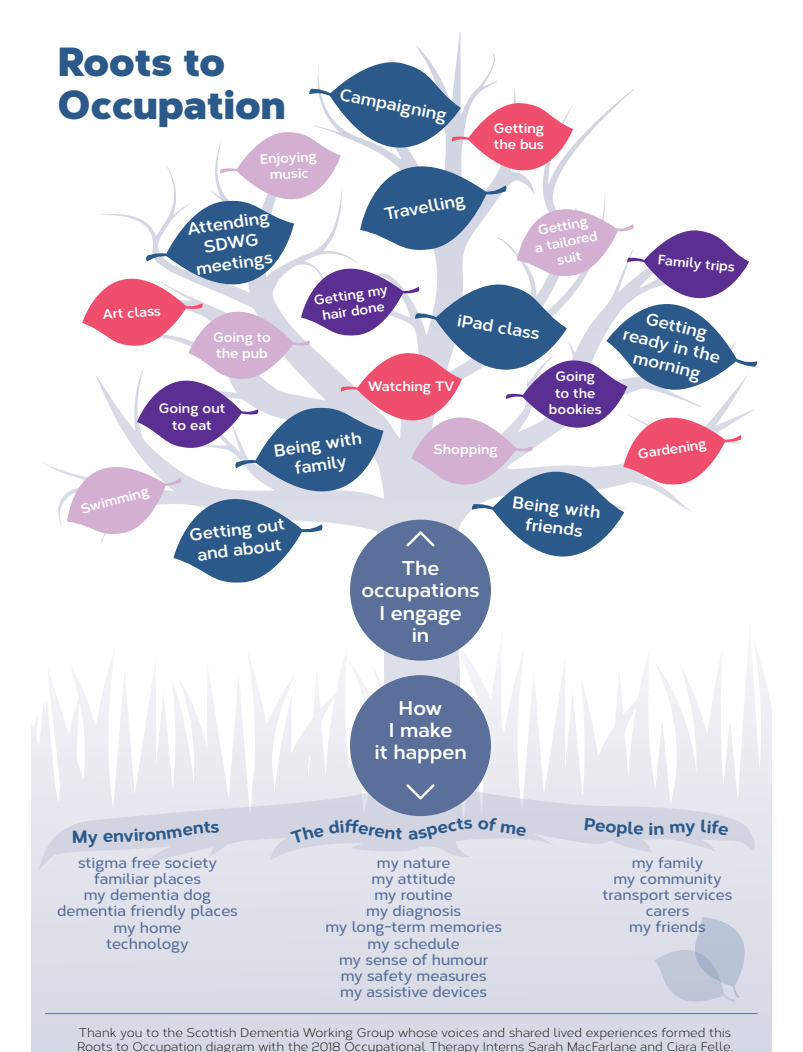
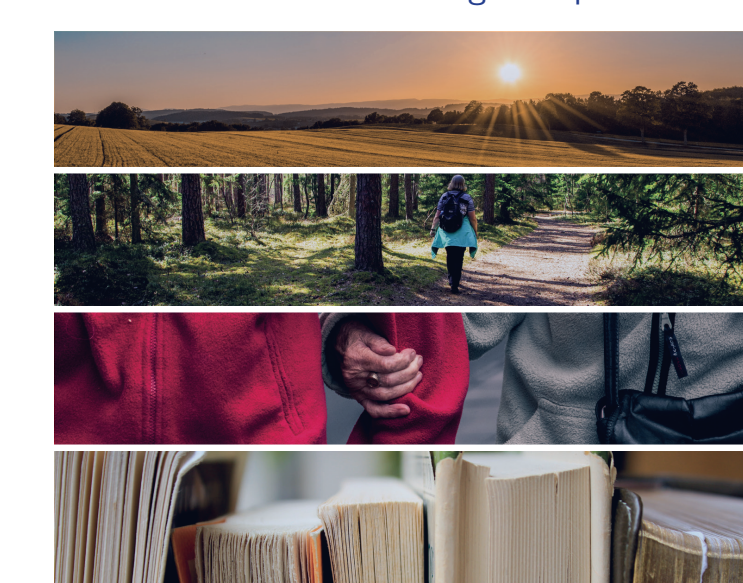
Outcomes of an internship

Academic internships have offered the opportunity to create and develop projects of relevance to organisational priorities, supporting the integration of the AHP national dementia policy (Alzheimer Scotland 2017) to local practice. However, more importantly, the projects have captured the voice of people living with dementia by developing peer to peer resources.

All available at <http://www.sdwg.org.uk/sdwg-publications/>



Our "Top Tips" for living well with dementia



Summary

This unique collaboration has offered occupational therapy students and recent graduates the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and understanding of living with dementia. In turn, this work has contributed to the development of a skilled occupational therapy dementia workforce in Scotland, whilst also generating outcomes of value and relevance to people living with dementia, their families and carers.



"Once again it was wonderful working with the Occupational Therapy interns, We, as SDWG members get so much out of it, and we hope that the interns enjoyed it as much as we did!"

(Scottish Dementia Working Group 2018)



Stay connected and tell us what you think by leaving a comment or a tweet at @AHPDementia. For further information contact Elaine at ehunter@alzscot.org or Fiona at FMaclean@qmu.ac.uk

References

Alzheimer Scotland 2017 Connecting People, Connecting Support. Transforming the allied health professionals contribution to supporting people living with dementia in Scotland 2017-2020 www.alzscot.org/ahp
Scottish Dementia Working Group 2018 Annual Report 2017-18 <http://www.sdwg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/SDWG-Annual-Report-17-18-WEB.pdf>