

ASUME

Volunteering in Dementia



research team

This project has been conducted in partnership with Western University of Applied Sciences, Bergen, Nasjonalforeningen for folkehelsen in Norway and the University of Stirling, Scotland.

Dr Vikki McCall is Senior Lecturer at the University of Stirling and researcher in the areas of housing, ageing, social policy, the third sector and cultural policy. Dr McCall has published on social policy, housing, volunteering, stigma, ageing, dementia, social inclusion, place, class, culture and poverty. As PI on the ASUME UK project, Dr McCall developed the website for training health practitioners to Attract, Sustain, Understand and Motivate Volunteers across different Environments (www.assume.co.uk). This has had international impact, with Aktivitetsvenn (supported and funded by the National Association for Public Health in Norway) funding this follow on project.

Dr Mari S. Berge is an associate professor at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences and has over thirty years experience from teaching and researching in nursing. Her background is from nursing and health informatics. She has focused on health promotion, particularly how technology may support people to remain living in their own home for longer. Her research contains mainly qualitative approaches that aim to display the experiences and views from older people, patients, relatives and health personnel.

Dr Louise McCabe is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Stirling and has over twenty years experience of research and practice on ageing and dementia. She has built a significant portfolio of ageing and dementia research with a focus on the potential of services to improve the lives

of families with dementia including the ASUME UK project. Dr McCabe's research includes user-focused evaluations and cross-national studies of ageing and dementia care services in the UK, Europe and India. Her research mainly utilises participatory, qualitative methods to engage with the experiences and views of older people, their family carers and practitioners.

Dr Jane Robertson is a Lecturer and Course Director of the Dementia Studies programme at the University of Stirling. She brings significant experience in research and evaluation connected with improving services and support for people with dementia and their families. Her central goal is contributing to knowledge and innovation to improve the well-being of older people, people living with dementia and their carers through co-produced research. With an interest in creative innovation to develop meaningful outcomes and social engagement in community and care settings, Jane has expertise investigating quality of life, psychosocial interventions and service user perspectives.

Dr Kane Needham is social researcher at the University of Stirling, and researcher at Edinburgh Business School, Heriot-Watt University – both in Scotland.

Dr Tom Wallace was a social researcher at the University of Stirling, and is now a senior software developer at Barrachd – both in Scotland.

Work already conducted by the research team in Norway explored the impact of day care centres for people with dementia and their carers in Scotland and Norway finding positive outcomes for both groups and noting the involvement of volunteers in some settings (Rokstad et al 2017). The themes found in Norway are compared to themes found globally, in Europe and the UK.

Survey

An online survey to volunteers across Norway working in the area of dementia care. The survey was provided in English and Norwegian to support inclusion of volunteers. This was launched through research team networks in Norway aimed at gatekeepers limited to voluntary (third sector) organizations that support volunteers, specifically in dementia care settings. 39 volunteers completed the survey.

Qualitative Interviews

A series of semi-structured interviews with people across Norway including with 4 volunteers and 3 people living with dementia was conducted through the summer of 2019. This qualitative element to the research allows the social impact of volunteers to be explored in more detail and the findings will inform further development of the framework and toolkit.

The interviews were recorded, fully transcribed and translated before analysed and checked for clarity between UK and Norway teams. This allowed the research team to code and categorise key themes from the data.



Western Norway
University of
Applied Sciences

UNIVERSITY of
STIRLING



For more information
visit www.asume.co.uk or
contact Dr Vikki McCall,
Principal Investigator of the project
vikki.mccall@stir.ac.uk /
[@vikki_mccall](https://twitter.com/vikki_mccall)