**West Cork Dementia Inclusive Project**

**Aims and Objectives**

**West Cork Dementia Inclusive Project**

This is a 3 year project working towards making West Cork (Network 10) a Dementia Inclusive Community using a community development approach. The project is hosted by Local Link Cork and funded by HSE South West via Cork South Community Work Department.

**Project Aims:**

1. To create a dementia-inclusive community in West Cork, where individuals with dementia and their families feel supported, understood, and valued, with a particular focus initially on the two largest West Cork towns of Bantry and Clonakilty.
2. To support the development of dementia-inclusive practices and services, working collaboratively with local Dementia Alliances, including community groups, businesses, education, faith, sports, arts & culture groups, and other local organisations, to enable them to identify and carry out actions to become dementia inclusive.
3. Ensure that people with dementia and their families are included as key participants in all of the work to develop dementia inclusive communities
4. To raise awareness and understanding about dementia and reduce stigma associated with the condition through training, information, and community involvement.
5. Review the Project and make recommendations for sustainability.
6. Ensure a sustainable end or next phase for the project

**Project Objectives:**

**1. Develop Bantry as a Dementia-Inclusive Community:**

* **Develop the Bantry Dementia Alliance**: Support the development and operation of the Bantry Dementia Alliance in its efforts to bring the community together to identify and take actions that support Bantry becoming dementia inclusive.
* **Implement the Bantry Dementia Inclusive Plan**: Support the implementation of the actions identified in the Bantry Dementia Inclusive Plan collectively and individually by relevant stakeholders. This includes actions over 10 thematic areas including Health, Education, Faith groups and Arts & Culture.
* **Communicate about and champion the development** of Bantry becoming a Dementia Inclusive Community

**2. Developing Clonakilty as a Dementia-Inclusive Community:**

* To engage with community groups, businesses, education, faith, sports, arts & culture, and other local organizations to enable them to become dementia inclusive.
* **Establish a local Clonakilty Dementia alliance** to include all major stakeholders in Clonakilty, including statutory services, Community & Voluntary services, and people with Dementia, their carers, local businesses and service providers. Through the collaboration of this group, they will develop a Clonakilty specific plan as part of the Dementia Inclusive West Cork Project.
* **To collaborate with local Community & Voluntary groups:** to develop a local Dementia Alliance group who understand the local supports needed for people living with Dementia and engage with relevant stakeholders to develop this.
* To ensure all stakeholders are involved in the development of support structures.  To engage with local towns who have also engaged in the process and learn from their experience.

**3. Providing Dementia Inclusive Information across West Cork:**

* **Sharing Information**: Serve as a resource for towns and villages across West Cork, supporting them by highlighting available dementia services and dementia related activities, as well as best practices for creating dementia-inclusive environments. This can include support with once off events
* **Signposting for people with dementia**: Where people with dementia or family/ friends make contact looking for information on dementia information & supports, signpost them to the most appropriate available resources (e.g. ASI, Bantry Hospital, Primary Care, Carer & Older Person’s development workers etc).
* **Highlighting gaps and advocating for dementia services for West Cork**

**4. Record keeping & Communication:**

* **Monitor progress & effectiveness**: Regularly track the implementation and success of dementia-inclusive initiatives in Bantry, Clonakilty, and other areas. Collect feedback from participants, community members, and local stakeholders.
* **Communicate:** Keep the West Cork community well informed about dementia and actions being taken to develop a dementia inclusive community, to maintain motivation to continue making the West Cork community more inclusive

**5. Sustainability and Future Planning:**

* **Review the project** at the end of year 2 with all stakeholders, to include writing a report that outlines the successes and challenges of the project, along with recommendations for the future
* Following the project review, establish a **long term proposal** to maintain West Cork as dementia inclusive. This may mean a well-managed end to the project with, for example, select initiatives maintained by other groups or it may mean its future development. If the proposal is for an end to the project, action to be taken during year 3 to ensure that this is done in a well-managed and clearly communicated way. If the proposal is for a continuation or adaptation of the project – there will be a need to establish funding, most appropriate structures & remit and ongoing development during Year 3.
* **Build long-term sustainability**: Work with all partners to ensure that dementia-inclusive initiatives are maintained beyond the life of the project.
* **Develop partnerships and networks**: Foster strong partnerships with key stakeholders in West Cork and nationally to ensure continued knowledge exchange, collaboration, and support for individuals with dementia.

**Support and Resources:**

* **Part-time Project Worker Role**: A dedicated part-time project worker (3 days per week) will lead these activities with the support of a steering group, which will consist of key partners and local champions.
* **Steering Group**: A collaboration between HSE South West (including Cork South Community Work Department, Primary Care Services, Bantry General Hospital, Dementia Care Coordinator), the Alzheimer’s Society of Ireland, Local Link, West Cork Development Partnership, Understand Together, Age Friendly Bantry, volunteers and other relevant groups, meeting regularly over the lifetime of the project to guide the work and ensure it is well-supported, as well as aligned with national & local dementia plans & initiatives.
* **Bantry and Clonakilty Dementia Alliances**: A broad membership of town specific interested businesses, organisations, community groups and individuals who work to develop a plan including specific actions to make their town dementia inclusive – including the local GAA teams, local schools, local Emergency first responders, local faith groups etc as well as relevant members of the project steering group and the project worker

**Outcome:**

By the end of the 3 years, key towns in West Cork will be recognized as dementia-inclusive, with improved community understanding, greater support for individuals with dementia, and a sustainable model for other areas to follow. West Cork will be a community where we work together to support and enable people living with dementia to be part of our social, economic, sporting and cultural life.

**Project Structure**

**West Cork Dementia Inclusive Project Steering Group:**

*10 – 20 members. Meets every 6 weeks approximately for the lifetime of the project*

Aim: to guide, support, and oversee the implementation of the West Cork Dementia Inclusive Project.

It will:

* Provide strategic direction and ensure alignment with local and national dementia strategies.
* Oversee and support the work of the part-time Dementia Inclusive Project Worker.
* Work to enable and empower Bantry and Clonakilty Dementia Alliances and their members
* Facilitate long-term sustainability planning and guide end-of-project transitions.

Members will:

* Use their own expertise, networks, and resources to strengthen project outcomes.
* Work closely with the Project worker on key identified pieces of work

**Clonakilty Dementia Alliance**

Large group of members – meets approx. quarterly. Members receive regular information via e-newsletter. Facilitated and supported by the Project worker

Membership:

* Relevant project steering group members
* Local Businesses, faith groups, schools, sports groups, Gardaí etc

**Bantry Dementia Alliance**

Large group of members – meets approx. quarterly. Members receive regular information via e-newsletter. Facilitated and supported by the Project worker.

Membership:

* Relevant project steering group members
* Local Businesses, faith groups, schools, sports groups, Gardaí etc

The ***Local Dementia Alliances* aim to**:

* Bring the community together to collectively identify actions, that can be taken together or individually by various groups, that support [Bantry or Clonakilty as appropriate] becoming dementia inclusive
* Develop & publish a plan to make [Bantry or Clonakilty as appropriate] Dementia Inclusive
* Work together, and individually, to implement the actions in the plan
* Communicate about and champion the development of [Bantry or Clonakilty as appropriate] becoming a Dementia Inclusive Community
* Be a safe space for people living with dementia and their families

**The membership of the alliance will commit to:**

* Contributing to the development of the plan to make [Bantry or Clonakilty as appropriate]Dementia Inclusive
* Taking named actions as identified in the plan
* Reviewing the plan at agreed points
* Championing the [Bantry or Clonakilty as appropriate]Dementia Alliance