



Thackray Medical Museum, Leeds

Project funder: UKMCG
Project budget: £3,000
Project time-scale: 3 months

2013

In 2013 I was appointed as a consultant to design, develop and pilot a project funded by the UK Medical Collections Group. The project objective was to develop the museum's handling collections to support people living with dementia. Aims were to work with the museum's stored resources to identify artefacts suitable for handling (both practically and emotionally), as well as resourcing additional equipment and materials, designing handling boxes and writing information and training packs.

The project also involved the identification of audiences and collating contact lists of care-homes and dementia clubs and cafes in the Leeds area. I organised two pilot sessions, one in a care-home and one in a dementia café, to assess the needs of the participants and their reactions to the handling boxes.



Sensitivity was a crucial component of the project - the need not to patronise and to recognise that dementia is not an "end of life" illness. I was also aware that many reminiscence projects tend to be intrinsically "female" in that they concentrate on home life. Therefore, I spent time identifying male interests as well as multi-sensory props including images with music, smells and the use of local products such as liquorice.

... please see next card



Thackray Medical Museum, Leeds (continued)

Some feedback from the session at the residential home:

“I think the overall session was great, we had a residents meeting on the 11th and all those that attended said positive things about how much they had enjoyed what you did and that they would like to see you again on a regular basis if that was possible.” (JC - Care Home Manager)



... please see next card ...

Thackray Medical Museum, Leeds (continued)

Comments from the Curator at the museum:

“I’m writing to let you know tomorrow I am giving a presentation on how we are using volunteers to promote and use the dementia resource you worked on ... I will of course be crediting the fantastic work you did on the project.”

“I am very happy with everything you’ve done, and will be sending over a formal letter of thanks and evaluation ... You have made an excellent resource and have also been lovely to work with, very dedicated and you have really done a fantastic job”

(LRS - Curator)

