



ANNUAL REVIEW 2016

MISSION STATEMENT

The Abbeyfield Research Foundation funds research that provides evidence to inform decisions, to direct policy development and to add practical knowledge to the sector that cares for people in later life.

The Foundation's founding principles focus on enhancing quality of life by embracing caring for the whole person – physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. Research can identify and develop a more robust, innovative and evidence based measure of need (as distinct from demand) for services such as those provided by Abbeyfield.

Together with our partners within the best research departments within academia and affiliated institutions, we will select the very best proposals that underpin our values, objectives and priorities and that show uniqueness in their approach to ensure that together, we add to the evidence based knowledge within the field.

THE ABBEYFIELD RESEARCH FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REVIEW 2016

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Abbeyfield Research Foundation
St Peter's House, 2 Bricket Rd,
St Albans Hertfordshire
AL1 3JW

Charity number 1167685
Email: research@abbeyfield.com
Phone 01727 734067

Directors
John Robinson CBE
Professor Cameron Swift
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Christopher Herbert
Keith Fowler
Stan Chan

CHAIRMAN'S

INTRODUCTION



JOHN ROBINSON

The Abbeyfield Research Foundation was created in July 2015. This new Foundation, a charity in its own right was created in recognition of the excellent work the Abbeyfield research grants programme had been doing for the previous 2 years.

In 2013/4, when we began funding peer-reviewed research, there was widespread interest and a large volume of good quality applications in the first two grant rounds. While some excellent projects were funded from a limited budget, we decided to establish the Foundation as an independent research charity to achieve a more substantial funding base and encourage more and even better proposals. We also hope that the Foundation will be able to encourage collaboration and/or joint funding opportunities between Abbeyfield and other funding bodies and charities.

The success of the initial research programme saw the number of applications in the first year more than double in the second year to 60 applications from academic institutions throughout the UK. With the creation of a dedicated Foundation, we can help more academics to undertake more projects

that will lead to better knowledge in the sector. The objective throughout has been partly to inform our own practice - recognising the relative lack of robust evidence for quality and effectiveness in our field of service provision - but also to play a key part in driving progress and innovation in the sector as a whole.

What next?

Our fundraising team is working to identify trusts and charities that we could approach for funding to grow the Foundation's funding capabilities. From an annual commitment of 300k per year, we're very much hoping to grow this to 1m or more in the next few years.

The Foundation is also keen to develop a distinctive strategy for dementia research, recognising that there is a welcome expansion of dementia research UK-wide, and there are examples of excellent care going on in The Abbeyfield Society led by the recently appointed Head of Dementia Innovation, April Dobson. We want to be involved and contributing to that research, but we also need to identify what our precise "niche" focus in dementia research should be.

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My fellow trustees, Keith Fowler, the Rt Revd Christopher Herbert, Stan Chan and Professor Cameron Swift and I will ensure that the work of the foundation has long term sustainability, both with regard to financial growth and intellectual rigor. We're also very focused on funding those projects which have a clear application to 'real world' care, and not just to fund projects which will be written up and stored on a shelf.

I am very grateful to the members of the academic advisory panel, who give their time and energies into the academic assessment of the projects. Their expertise and input are crucial into making sure that we fund only the very best projects. Thanks to Professor Swift and his team of Professor John Gladman (Nottingham), Professor Steve Illiffe (UC London), Professor Christopher Phillipson (Manchester), Professor Robin Means (University of the West of England), Professor Anthony Bayer (Cardiff) and Dr Julie Whitney (KCL).

I'm also very grateful for the on-going support of the Abbeyfield Society board – without whom, the Foundation would not exist. Their vision and passion for the Foundation is to be applauded, and I look forward to sharing the outcomes of our funded projects in due course.

Work more appropriately funded from other sources – such as medical, social or product development research of no tangible relevance to these aims – does not form part of the Foundation's remit.

John Robinson

CHAIR OF THE

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE



CAMERON SWIFT

Why is there a need?

There is a dearth of good quality research focusing solely on older people and their needs, and Abbeyfield as a charity, has always believed in the ethos of caring for the whole person: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual, and that older people deserve the same opportunities for good treatment and care as anyone else.

Funding good quality research is one way to make that happen, and to date, we've funded 15 projects, (four in the first year, five in the second year and six in the third year).

Funding good quality research supports and maintains best practice in health and social care, and models which encompass elements of both. The demographics of ageing are changing, and how health and social care for older people is organised has also started changing too. People are living for longer, and therefore more people will need access to better care – specific to their needs and age. All the indications are that doing this well is not only more effective, but also more cost-effective, than doing it badly.

Measuring both need and effectiveness in the field requires a proper understanding of ageing issues – including demographic, physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs. These are often less straightforward than are broadly perceived both by professionals and the general public. Too often there is a simplistic, mainly negative view of ageing

with a narrow focus either on a specific condition (for example dementia), or on social need, which is at the expense of coordinated assessment and care planning. The result is a failure to deliver both individualised care and organise services effectively or cost-effectively.

By having an age-related research programme encompassing a broad range of disciplines, it's hoped the work of the Abbeyfield Foundation may help breathe some new life into the sector as a whole. We see our Foundation as being a leader and a driving force to help make sure that research in the ageing sector is seen as important, desirable and useful.

The Abbeyfield Research Foundation offers 3 types of grant to UK based academics, with the call for applications launched annually each October to run alongside the start of the academic year.

Innovative Pump-Priming Grants

Grants in this category will cover the preliminary evaluation of an innovative or novel concept over a maximum 12-month period to underpin a subsequent more substantial application for funding. This may be a project where little is known about the subject matter, or it's being applied under different conditions. The level of this award is typically up to £20k on a one-off basis.



“...local Abbeyfield contact with MPs, giving consistent and aligned Abbeyfield messages, will enhance our public profile”

Small Project Grants

This type of funding is suitable for a more substantial project addressing a specific subject. Grants in this category will cover applicant salary, running costs and possibly items of essential equipment. Awards for this type of project are typically up to £80k in total over 18 months or 2 years.

PhD Studentships

Applications for PhDs come from prospective supervisors (usually professors or other senior academics) in institutions providing graduate training programmes for grants providing funding for the student, university bench fees and project running costs. The most substantial (but often the best value) type of grant to award, these cost typically around £20-30k per year over 3 years.

How do we choose which projects to fund?

The independent scientific advisory panel, chaired by myself and including eminent research experts from across the country, considers each project in turn in a 2-stage process. At Stage-1, a shortlist of the strongest outline proposals is identified and these are invited to submit fuller, in-depth Stage-2 applications. These in turn are sent to independent expert academic peer reviewers, whose critical feedback is then carefully considered by the panel at its final meeting to decide which grants are ultimately recommended for an award.

Clear selection criteria (and a strict code of conduct, including confidentiality and management of any conflicts of interest) are applied to applications at each step of the 2-stage process. The key criteria are the scientific merit of the proposal, the degree of innovation, the 'fit' with Abbeyfield, the strength of the academic team and their expertise in the subject area, the project's ability to enhance and add to evidence based knowledge within the field, and the value for money of the project.

PROJECTS

FUNDED TO DATE



UNIVERSITY OF
STIRLING

McCall – University of Stirling

The role of volunteers in dementia care.
Project grant – 2 years



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Mountain – University of Sheffield

Telemedicine for care homes
PhD Studentship – 3 years



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Breen – University of Birmingham

Determining the role of phosphatidic acid in old age
Pump-priming grant – 1 year



Aston University
Birmingham

Holland - University of Aston

Structured autobiographical memory training as a preventative strategy
in cognitive and social functioning decline
PhD studentship – 3 years



The University of
Nottingham

UNITED KINGDOM - CHINA - MALAYSIA

Atherton – University of Nottingham

Concurrent assessment of skeletal muscle mass and synthesis/
breakdown in old age: defining diagnostics and the aetiology
of sarcopenia to identify “at-risk” individuals and appropriate
countermeasures
PhD Studentship – 3 years



UNIVERSITY OF
STIRLING

Ward – University of Stirling

Moving Memories: The role and meaning of possessions in the context
of housing transitions for people entering care
Pump-priming grant – 1 year



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Fleming – University of Cambridge

Care, social support, loneliness, transitions and care preferences of very
old people.
Secondary analysis of qualitative data from the Cambridge City over-75s
Cohort (CC75C) Study
Project grant – 2 years



Manthorpe – King’s College London

How do handovers happen? A study of handover at shift changeovers in care homes for older people
Project grant – 2 years



White – Queen Margaret University - Scotland

Hearing care for older adults in the residential care home environment
PhD Studentship – 3 years



Barrett – University of Worcester

Green dementia care in Extra Care and Residential Care settings – opportunities, barriers and good practice
Pump-priming grant – 1 year



Gallagher – University of Surrey

ETHoS Project: Ethical Implications of Spirituality for Care-Recipients and Care-Givers in Residential Care for Older People
PhD Studentship – 3 years



Luff – University of Southampton

A ladder to success? Understanding access to, and the value of, apprenticeships in care homes
Pump-priming grant – 1 year



Norton – King’s College London

Improving faecal incontinence in Care Homes: developing an intervention and conducting a feasibility study
PhD Studentship – 3 years



Pownall – Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation

A literature and consensus based approach to the development of a dysphagia management protocol in the care home setting
Small Project grant - 2 years



Wood – Cardiff University

Investigation of pain and discomfort associated with anti-VEGF injections
PhD Studentship – 3 years

THE ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS

IN DEMENTIA CARE

VIKKI MCCALL

Our project will provide new knowledge and understanding of the role played by volunteers in the lives of people with dementia and produce practical guidelines and advice that will help:

- People living with dementia,
- Those who volunteer with people living with dementia,
- The housing services and care organisations that support them.

And specifically asks:

- What role do volunteers play in the social networks of people with dementia?
- What is the perceived impact of volunteering in dementia care settings?
- Who are volunteers in dementia care settings and what activities do they engage in?
- What attracts volunteers to support those living with dementia?
- What are the experiences of volunteers in dementia care?





“Those living with dementia receive more help from family carers but not necessarily from formal volunteers”

To investigate these questions we have conducted an exploratory study using a mixed methods approach. Including:

- Literature review
- Secondary Analysis
- Organisational Survey
- Qualitative interviews with volunteers, family carers and people living with dementia

Conclusions so far:

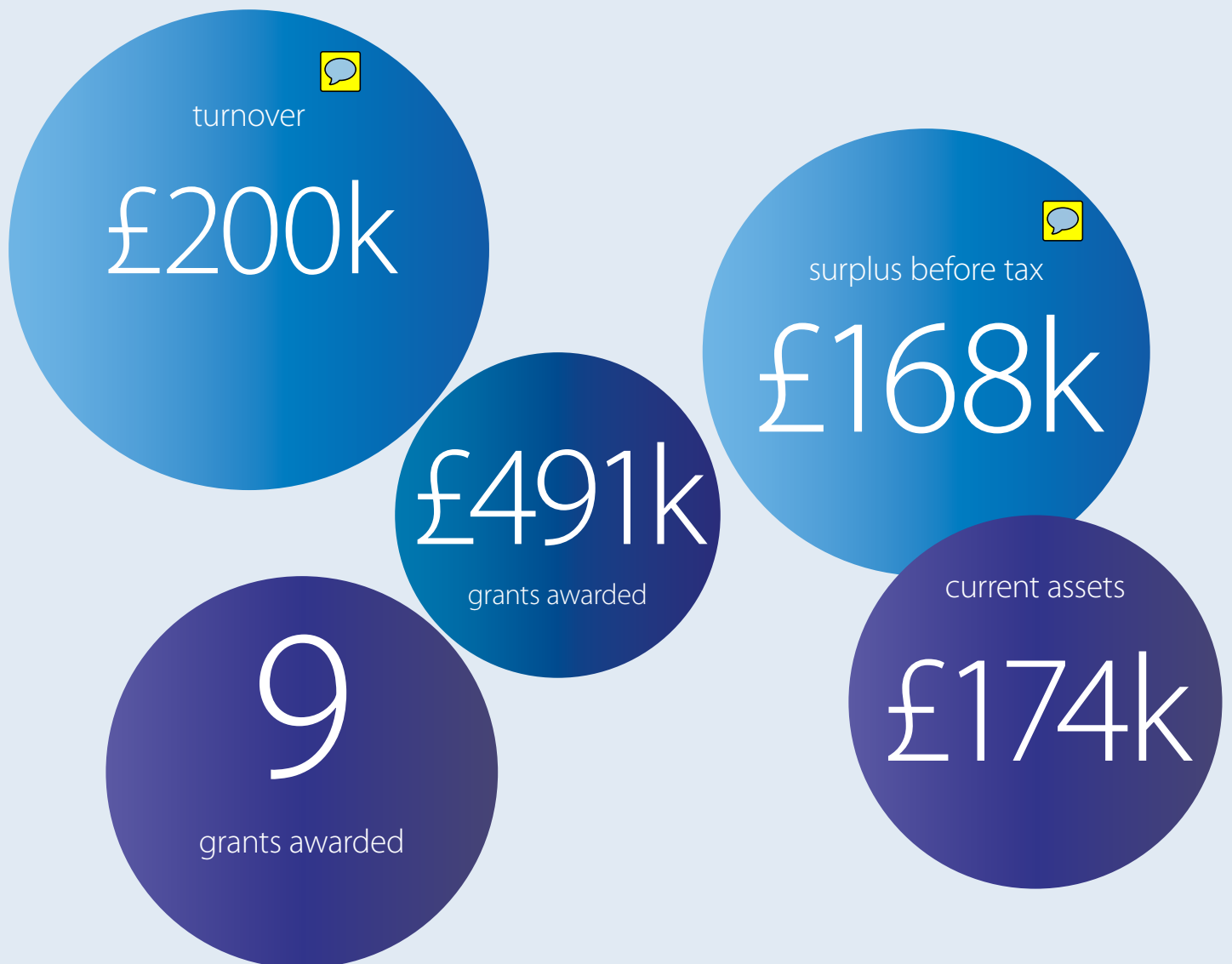
- The project so far has highlighted the key gaps in knowledge and the currently un-integrated areas of volunteering, housing and dementia care.
- Early findings from the literature and quantitative analysis point to the importance of different care spaces on the experiences of volunteers and those living with dementia.
- Those living with dementia receive more help from family carers but not necessarily from formal volunteers. This may present both opportunities and challenges for different care organisations.
- Volunteer agencies may begin to think about a more rounded volunteering package that includes not only those living with dementia but those around them as well.

Next steps...

- Further analysis, including mapping the formal and informal networks of people living with dementia.
- Final report
- Design of the toolkit/guidance for organisations supporting volunteers
- Dissemination of findings – conferences and the involvement of Volunteer Scotland.

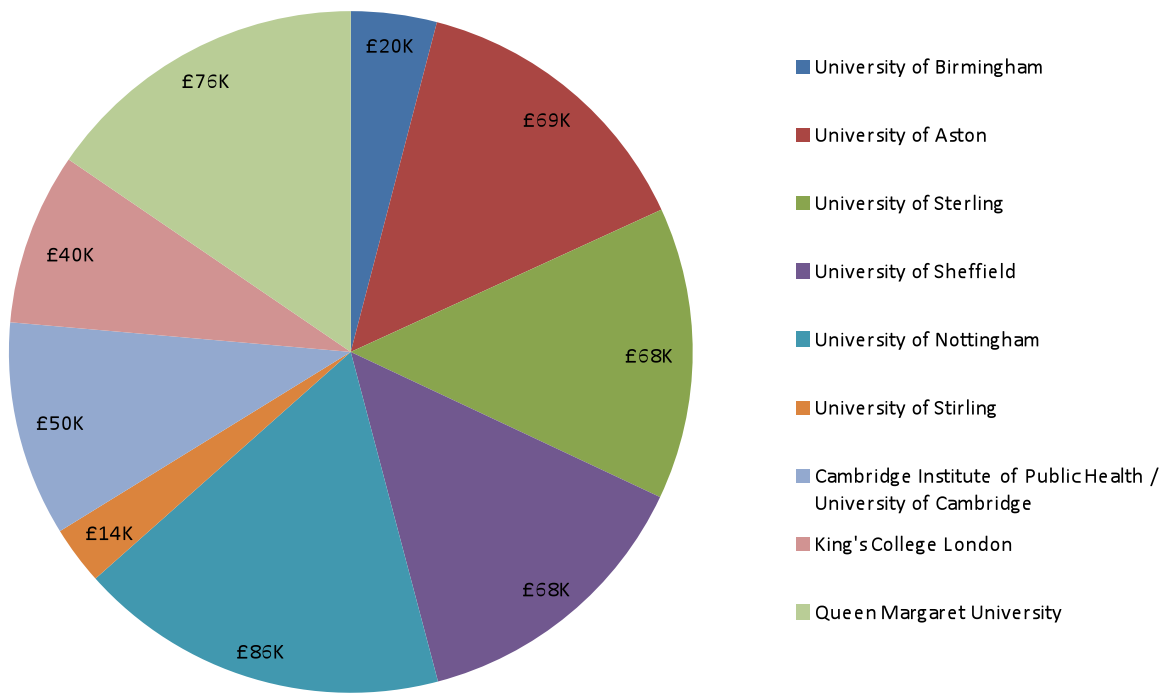
FACTS AND FIGURES AT A GLANCE

FOR THE ABBEYFIELD RESEARCH FOUNDATION



8 months to 31st March 2016

Total Grants Awarded - £491k



FUNDRAISING

STRATEGY

The fundraising strategy for The Abbeyfield Research Foundation will pursue and target two main streams for its fundraising. The first will be to engage with trusts and foundations that fund work with an emphasis on the older person and those that fund work related to dementia. The second stream is to approach the Pharmaceutical sector for financial support.

Our research work covers a wide range of subjects that can have an impact on the quality of life for the older person whether they are in residential care or still living independently and our policy of sharing the knowledge gained from the research makes us an attractive proposition to funders.

It has also been recognized that there will be some opportunities for us to work in partnership with other voluntary organizations / charities particularly where there is a common interest.

The Abbeyfield Research Foundation is committed to its charitable aims, and fundraises in order to fund research. We follow and comply with the Institute of Fundraising codes of conduct and with the Fundraising Regulator.

We respect the rights of our supporters to clear, truthful information on the work of The Abbeyfield

Research Foundation; to openly report how we spend donations and to manage donors' information responsibly.

We will comply with the Charity Commission and UK law in every respect, including those regarding openness and honesty with our supporters and members of the public.

We will respect the privacy and contact preferences of all donors. We will respond promptly to requests to cease contacts or complaints and act as best we can to address their causes.

We abide by the law which requires us, in deciding whether to accept or refuse a donation, to consider which action is in the charity's best overall interest.

We will not, however, accept donations made by donors whose activities appear to be in direct conflict with the best interests of our research. We will not undertake business with companies or individuals who participate in activities which could cause detriment to the charity's reputation and will not endorse products, treatments or companies.



“Those living with dementia receive more help from family carers but not necessarily from formal volunteers”

THE Abbeyfield
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION