Abstract. Stockport Council is a medium sized municipality in the UK’s north-west with around 300,000 residents. Within the Council the Adult Social Care Department aims to help older adults to continue to live as independently as possible within the community. The paper introduces the activities of Stockport Council regarding robot and technology testing with older adults as well as experiences made.

1 Introduction

The Adult Social Care Department carries out an assessment of needs, prioritised according to the urgency of the situation. If the assessed needs fit our eligibility criteria, people are assigned a personal budget to spend on meeting their needs. People can use their personal budget to receive support services such as home care, day care, respite care or breaks for carers, as well as less traditional support options, such as employing a personal assistant. We also support people to access residential and nursing care, where this offers the most appropriate type of support to meet their needs. If the assessed needs do not fit our eligibility criteria, people are supported to access a range of lower level preventative support options, designed to increase their independence and delay their need for more intensive social care support.

We also have a range of support services such as Customer Care, Information and Publicity, IT systems, performance and project management functions and strategy and policy development roles. Finally we are closely linked with NHS Stockport and play a significant role around public health in Stockport (see also figure 1).

2 European Involvement

Stockport Council has considerable and varied experience of delivering successful European Cooperation Projects such as Interreg Projects, CIP Projects, FP7 Project and is currently involved in the following projects: CLIPS ICT-PSP, FP7 Project Silver, SeNS Interreg NWE IV Programme and Cities In Balance NWE IV Programme and more recently Ambient Assistive Living projects as well as Horizon 2020 with Project Mario. We have also been involved with
Stockport Council - Who are we?
Based in England’s North West
Greater Manchester
Pop: 280,000
Active in EU cooperation/EIP-AHA
One of Founding members of Covenant on Demographic Change
ECH Alliance/Coral members

Fig. 1. The Stockport Council

Grundtvig/Leonardo programmes and closely involved in the EU Year of Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity and the connected development of European Innovation Partnerships where we took part in the Age Friendly Cities pilot. We are also members of the ECH Alliance and AgeingWell Networks. Latterly our role has grown to become active members of the EIP-AHA and Coral Networks. In 2016 Stockport became one of the founding members of the Covenant on Demographic Change and also signed up to a commitment for the EIP-AHA on Age Friendly Environments. We are also a key part of Greater Manchesters 3 star EIP-AHA reference site (see also figure 2 and 3).

3 Use of Technology

Stockport has been involved in two key robotics projects with European partners and added to that have developed award winning IT solutions for Social Care for Seniors.

3.1 Project Silver

This was a really successful pre commercial procurement programme funded by the EUs 7th Framework Programme to set up a successful PCP process for procurers of robotic assistance for older people to stay independent longer (see also figure 4).

Such was the success of Project Silver the start up is now not only growing but is ready to hit the market with a unique and versatile robot that will really help older people preventing falls and maintaining independence in the community (see also figure 5).
What we do in Europe.

Inform user specifications via coproduction in funded projects
Act as end users in trials in funded projects
Help with dissemination
Get involved with non funded activity - 3* ref site
EIP-AHA, Coral, Covenant on Demographic Change, Agile Ageing Alliance
Share some of our best practice and influence

Fig. 2. The Stockport Council activities in Europe

2014 Older people’s health
Stockport has 55,600 residents aged 65+

2014: older people’s health
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Fig. 3. Ageing Statistics Stockport
Project Silver - What it was  http://www.silverpcp.eu/

Dual Project - Pre Commercial Procurement (PCP) and Robot project
PCP project developed best practice for pre commercial procurement and innovative funding
Competition to develop new robotic solutions for cities for Seniors
Recognised as huge success for Europe
Saw successful SME develop a Robotic stroller

Fig. 4. Project Silver

Project Silver - What we did
Got involved in the PCP process and development
Led on the ethics area
Developed successful testing programme
Got involved in the competition to find successful solutions
Tested successful prototypes locally
Large level of dissemination about PCP process and new robotic solution

Fig. 5. Stockport Activities in Project Silver
3.2 Project Mario

Project Mario is another robotics project that is using the latest developments in robotics and a bespoke software platform targeting people living with Dementia in the UK, Italy and Ireland.

It is testing the idea of whether people living with dementia can tolerate a companion robot and whether it could be useful to target isolation.

Funded by Horizon 2020 this project brings together partners from across Europe to develop one of the first robotics products targeting dementia and will see the area of voice recognition and AI tested (see figure 6).

We are testing Mario in Stockport in community groups and in one to one sessions as well as with staff and carers. We are surprised by the level of interest not only from within these groups but also in the national press about this although it is a concern to manage expectation in both areas as this is a prototype (see also figure 7).

It has also been a new area for us to act as ethics lead in our area as well as working with the local health organisations to organise testing as well as with dementia drop ins and support groups but most important with people living with dementia driving the user specification and the types of testing themselves.

Accessing new technology with user input right at the beginning is crucial in Stockport and is central to our efforts around co production of services for people by people in Stockport. An example of this is My Care My Choice which was the Councils award winning Social Care platform (see also figure 8).
**Project Mario - What are we doing**

- Involved in initial user specification directly with industry and SMEs
- Acceptability testing
- Developing testing plans
- Carrying out tests in community and home setting
- Assisting with dissemination

![Fig. 7. The Stockport activities in the Mario Project](image1)

**Project Mario - What are we getting out of it**

- Access to new tech
- Access directly to SMEs and Industry leads
- Robots for people living in Stockport
- Reputation as partner prepared to get involved in more formal research (i.e., University/Hospital)

![Fig. 8. Results from the Mario Project](image2)
3.3 Coproduction my care my choice

My Care my Choice was a web portal for people for all their social care needs and information that was planned and designed by people from Stockport who use the services themselves in a coproduced manner (see also figure 9).

![Connected Smart Cities - My Care My Choice](image)

**Fig. 9.** Connected Smart Cities - My Care My Choice

The idea is to have a service designed by the people who will use it to find information and manage their own care. It has been now adopted by other municipalities in the UK. Its design and look were created by and tested by service users in Stockport.

**Acknowledgment**

This work is supported by the Horizon 2020 project GrowMeUp (Grant No. 643647).

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Welcome to My Care My Choice, the website for Stockport Council Adult Social Care

My Care My Choice has information about local services, groups and activities, as well as advice about looking after your wellbeing and independence.

If you or someone you know needs some help with managing day to day life, My Care My Choice can help you find out about what kinds of support are available.

Find out about:

- Keeping yourself healthy and well
- Getting help and support
- Keeping safe
- About Adult Social Care
- Finding care agencies and other services

Fig. 10. My Care My Choice - Webpage