

Stockport Council - A municipality testing robots and technology with Seniors

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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 part of Greater Manchester's 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 EU's 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+

Stockport JSNA
joint strategic needs assessment

% of population Age 65+ 19.4% of Stockport population (55,600) 22.1% 2025 population projection (66,500) Compared to England 17.6% (2014) 20.2% (2025 projection)	Age 85+ 2.6% of Stockport population (7,400) 3.7% 2025 population projection (11,000) Compared to England 2.6% (2014) 3.2% (2025 projection)	Life expectancy at 65 19.4 years in 2012-14 73.2 in most deprived areas 82.5 in least deprived areas 21.1 years in 2012-14 17.7 in most deprived areas 22.5 in least deprived areas	Healthy life expectancy at 65 10.3 years in 2011-13 5.6 in most deprived areas 12.7 in least deprived areas 10.7 years in 2011-13 6.5 in most deprived areas 12.8 in least deprived areas
Hospital admissions age 65+ (2012-13, directly age standardised per 100,000) 28,754 emergency hospital admissions 41,237 in most deprived areas 23,706 in least deprived areas 27,070 in 2012-13	2,748 injuries due to falls 3,896 in most deprived areas 2,351 in least deprived areas 2,367 in 2012-13	6,652 cancer admissions 6,133 in most deprived areas 6,645 in least deprived areas 6,073 in 2012-13	Excess winter deaths 65.5 (9.5%) age 65+ 100.5 (12.7%) all ages 7.2% in 40% most deprived areas (65+) 14.5% in 40% most deprived areas (aa) 11.6% England and Wales (all age)
Health and wellbeing 2,700 with dementia 20% with 2 or more long term conditions 33% living alone 42% Cannot do at least 1 domestic task 14% Provide unpaid care 50% with a long term health problem or disability	Social Care 775.7 Permanent admissions to care homes (65+ per 100,000) 731.4 National average 86.6% Older people at home 91 days after leaving hospital 83.7% England average 89.2% people using adult social care who received self-directed support 59.9% England average		

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 targetting 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 targetting dementia and will see the area of voice recognition and AI tested (see figure 6).



Project Mario - What it is - www.mario-project.eu

EU funded project targeting isolation and loneliness using companion robots

Specifically targeting people living with dementia

Develop speech synthesis and platform for robot

Testing in Italy, Ireland and Stockport

Testing whether people living with dementia can accept and engage with robots - or not!



Fig. 6. The Project Mario

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

Involvement 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

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

more formal research (ie University/Hospital)



Fig. 8. Results from the Mario Project

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

Coproduced by seniors

Award winning

Personalised budgeting

Market Place/Rating system

Silver Economy

www.mycaremychoice.org.uk



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.

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Popular pages and searches

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- ▶ Contact us
- ▶ Concessionary travel pass
- ▶ Volunteering
- ▶ Financial assessment
- ▶ Eligibility and finance checker
- ▶ Personal Assistants
- ▶ Dementia
- ▶ Autism
- ▶ Telecare

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
What we do and how to contact us



Finding care agencies and other services

Fig. 10. My Care My Choice - Webpage