In February 2016, MacIntyre was awarded a grant from The Department of Health. This will enable us to create a range of learning and multi-media information resources to improve the support and care for people with learning disabilities who have dementia or are at risk of developing dementia.

We have called the project “The MacIntyre Dementia Project”, and it has been funded for three years.
“Keep Going…….. Don’t Stop!” focus group in Chesterfield

We hold a focus meeting in Chesterfield, once a month called “Keep Going…….. Don’t Stop!”. This is a group to ensure the voices of people supported by MacIntyre are heard.

We discuss how people feel about getting older and ways to age healthily and happily.

The group are creating a range of Easy-Read resources using real-life photos, rather than photo symbols.

The group are compiling an Easy - Read booklet on ‘Respect’

The group at their July meeting in Chesterfield

Andrew, Claire and Louise demonstrating ‘No Bullying’

Andrew demonstrating ‘Be calm’
In June, we officially launched our project, with informal side-by-side events in Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire and Warrington. We held drop-in sessions to explain future plans and to share ideas and experiences with people we support, staff, health professionals and external stakeholders.

Nicola ran some of the popular Dementia Friends sessions, signing up more than 50 people over the three launch days!

Thank you to everyone who came along and made the days so successful!
Memory Café community events aim to share memories and make friends over coffee and cake, and are open to everyone.

The next Memory Café in Great Holm will be on 23 August, please do come and join us!

In Warrington it will be held on 26th August at the Fairfield and Howley Neighbourhood Project, in the Old School Dining Room.
The Dementia Project ‘Toolkit of resources’ available now to the Year One groups…..

Over the next year we are putting together the ‘Toolkit’ of resources and eLearning – some subjects are now available on My MacIntyre. There is a range of resources, including e-learning modules, easy-read booklets and internet references and reports. All focus on the issues faced by people with a learning disability with dementia or who are at risk of developing dementia. Also included is information on general issues around getting older, such as, health and wellbeing plus end of life care.

Beth Britton to visit Year One services……

In September, freelance campaigner Beth Britton plans to visit Year 1 services in Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire and Warrington, who support people who are diagnosed or suspected of having dementia.

Beth is an independent expert consultant working with MacIntyre Dementia Project and will be offering support to the year one groups. Beth will be able to answer any questions or concerns relating dementia. In particular Beth will provide advice on Life Story. As part of her visits Beth will also ask about best practice examples so we can share these with others.
Future plans:
We are currently finalising dates for three side-by-side workshops in February 2017 in Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire and Warrington. They will focus on Life Story and person-centred planning.

Watch this space for more information and dates!

We are involved with:

◊ An interview with ARC Seven Communications on 6th September
◊ We are Expert Consultants for Aged Care Channel TV
◊ We are presenting at the Health and Care Innovation Expo 2016 in Manchester on 7th September with Gill Boston from the National Care Forum, on Dementia, Equity and Rights,
Important dates:

- Healthwatch meeting: 7th September in Milton Keynes
- Celebration’ event at Great Holm: 10th September
- Warrington Memory Café: 23rd September
- Great Holm Memory Café: 27th September
- Dementia Project Steering Group meeting: 5th October
- Dementia Special Interest Group meeting 12th October
- Workshop to create easy-read Dementia Friends resources: 17th November for Warrington and 23rd November for Milton Keynes and Bedfordshire

Come and visit us at the MacIntyre Roadshow in the north on 30th November and in the south on 8th December!