



UNIVERSITY OF THE
WEST *of* SCOTLAND
UWS

Integration of SDGs in

- Institutional governance/strategic level
- SDGs in research
- SDGs in campus operations
- SDGs in curriculum development
- SDGs in student engagement activities
- SDGs into community activities
- SDGs at a whole-institution level

Focus on

- Goal 1 - No poverty
- Goal 2 - Zero hunger
- Goal 3 - Good health and wellbeing
- Goal 4 - Quality education
- Goal 5 - Gender equality
- Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy
- Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth
- Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
- Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production
- Goal 13 - Climate action
- Goal 14 - Life below water
- Goal 15 - Life on land
- Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions
- Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

SDG Accord Case Study

Summary: Quality dementia care and living the best life possible

The WHO Global dementia action plan calls for quality dementia care and positive living, but care quality variability, dementia related inequalities and a lack of practice evidence impedes progress. Our advanced dementia research programme and dementia in employment research provides much-needed evidence to improve practice and achieve positive living.

Outline the 3 key benefits of integrating this theme:

- 1.** Advanced dementia has been recognised as a distinctive phase, prior to end of life, associated with dementia-specific palliative care needs. Accepting all needs arising from advanced dementia as healthcare is pivotal to addressing cost inequalities and transformative policy, with potential benefit to over 90,000 people living with dementia in Scotland.
- 2.** A research-informed advanced dementia best practice statement has changed approaches to dementia care education at UWS and as far afield as Portugal, Czech Republic and Mexico, in addition to shaping new long-term care quality improvement systems.
- 3.** Our dementia in employment research revealed a previously hidden problem, giving impetus to training for dementia-positive employment practice driven by national agencies and trade unions, benefiting the lives of the 40,000 working-age people in the UK with early onset of dementia.

Outline the barriers or challenges encountered in integrating this theme and how you overcame these:

- 1.** Dementia care and living with dementia research is an underfunded area of research, and the impact in practice and policy requires robust and persuasive evidence for change.
- 2.** A strategic partnership with Scotland's leading dementia charity allowed us to establish the Alzheimer Scotland Centre for Policy and Practice at UWS.
- 3.** This partnership approach ensured the voice and influence of people with lived experiences informed our research agenda and amplified policy and practice impact.

Outline your conclusions and recommendations to others:

Dementia is a global public health problem and the challenges of creating a dementia care and positive living research programme were surmountable through collaborative partnerships, commitment and modest risk taking. Advanced dementia research was surprisingly under researched and difficult to fund, we had to think outside the box and an Erasmus + grant focussed on the HEI modernisation agenda got us started with European

SDG Accord Case Study

collaborators. We also needed persistence and tenacity to begin our seminal research in dementia and employment, because it was a hidden problem. The voices of those with lived experience and their research involvement helped to amplify scientific justifications and convince others. Through taking a focussed and partnership approach, we have established impactful signature UWS Dementia Research that addresses UNSDG 3 and 10 and is making a positive impact.

The front cover of the ASCPP 2021 Celebration Report.

