



Social Innovation Lab Kent

Summer 2015



The SILK team was recently invited to participate in a workshop to explore innovation labs in public sector settings, by the Leadership Centre at the Local Government Association. It was attended by leaders in the 'innovation space' from local authorities around the UK.

Nigel Jacob, the co-founder of New Urban Mechanics (newurbanmechanics.org) - a network of civic innovation offices in the Mayor's Offices in Boston and Philadelphia and the University of Utah Valley, United States – presented and discussed how the NUM model could be applied in the UK.

Dominic Campbell (wearefuturegov.com), who has extensive experience, including setting up Labs, with more than one hundred local and national authorities across four continents, and Emma identified similarities to existing models in the UK, including Labs set up by FutureGov and SILK.

We explored the challenges of setting up a "Lab" within the cultural context - notably the systemic and vertical silos - of a public sector, that is not conducive to a Lab model. In particular the experiences of the staff employed within a Lab was explored – in what could be conceived as a hostile environment in some cases.

We look forward to continuing the discussion and sharing our experiences about setting up SILK in 2007 and our successful programme of work since then.

@dominiccampbell @futuregov @nsjacob @newurbanmechs

Dementia Friendly Kent



SILK's involvement in the Dementia Friendly Communities Programme has come to an end – the programme will continue under the new Dementia Friendly Communities team which is part of Kent County Council's Social Care, Health and Well-Being Commissioning Team. Have a browse around the new website

www.dementiafriendlykent.org.uk which includes all the activity that has happened over the past two years to make Kent more dementia

friendly, including the SILK co-production projects – the Dementia Diaries, the GP Checklist and the Maidstone Mentors. SILK worked alongside people living and working with dementia, their families and web developers The Hideout.co.uk, to create the new website. It was set up so that Dementia Friendly Communities across Kent can upload their own content and use the site to share what's happening in their areas and what they are doing to become 'dementia friendly'. We hope that the stories will inspire others in both Kent and beyond to ensure that our communities are welcoming for people who are currently living with dementia. A full report will be ready later in the year.

Dementia Diaries and Learning Resource Pack



The Dementia Diaries, is still being sold on Amazon and is continuing to receive great feedback, notably being Highly Commended last year at the national NHS England Excellence in Participation Awards. We are currently in discussion with Jessica Kingsley Publishers who are interested in partnering with us to support the growth in book sales, with all profit to be reinvested into Kent's Dementia Friendly Communities. To accompany the Dementia Diaries, we have been working with a local teacher Nicki Komorowski, Matthew Snyman and the Dementia Diaries Editorial Board to create The Dementia Diaries: The Learning Resource.

A taster is available here www.dementiafriendlykent.org.uk/learning/learning-resource-pack/

The learning resource has been developed to engage with PSHE Association Programme of Study and the National Curriculum Programme of Study for Citizenship Key Stage 3. It is also being accredited by ASDAN. If you would like to be involved in testing the learning resource please get in touch. It is currently being tested in different settings, including schools and with home schoolers, but we would always welcome anyone else who wishes to be involved. Please email silk.team@kent.gov.uk For up to date information on progress follow [@dementiadiaries](https://twitter.com/dementiadiaries) on Twitter

Dementia Lab in Northern Ireland



After a visit to SILK last year to hear more about the SILK approach and our programme on dementia, we have been working closely with the Innovation Branch at the Public Sector Reform Division of the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Innovation team wanted to learn from existing activity happening in Kent, as transferable models that could be applied in Northern Ireland. We were invited over to Belfast for a collaborative planning and co-design session with medical, social care and design experts from across Northern Ireland.

Emma and Dr Hannah Parathian, a community ethnographer based in Kent, designed and facilitated the intensive 5 day Dementia Lab in June using the [SILK human centred methodology](#). It was held over 2 weeks in 2 locations - Hemsworth Court, supported living accommodation in Shankill, Belfast and Craggen Healthy Living Centre in Derry/LondonDerry, with some additional research visits. 80 participants took part, including 9 carers and 26 people living with dementia and health, social care and voluntary community sector professionals from across Northern Ireland. At the end of the 5 days there was an agreed action plan to focus on key deliverables which was a very successful outcome – the results are being presented back to the Health Minister in August and to Professor Alistair Burns, the National Clinical Director for Dementia, NHS England. A SILK report about the process will be available later in the year.

Our recent visitors



SILK have recently hosted visits from the HAN University Netherlands, the London Borough of Bexley, Community Action Southwark, Holy Cross Centre Trust, and the Département Loire-Atlantique each wanting to know more about what we do and how we do it. It's beneficial for us to hear other people's approaches and to provide support where we can, particularly to people who are in the early stages of setting up their own labs. A recent visitor said "It was very useful and inspiring to speak to people who were putting everything I'd read into practice".

Life after School

Looking at life after school from the perspective of young people with special educational needs



At the beginning of 2015 we undertook a short piece of insight gathering with people with Special Educational Needs to understand what the transition from school is like. The Insight Report can be found [here](#).

Life after school
Insight report

SILK moving again!

SILK have moved Directorates again – we were part of Growth, Environment and Transport and have now moved to Strategic and Corporate services under the Strategic Business Development and Intelligence section. We look forward to working with our new colleagues in the Research and Evaluation team.

We are currently scoping a new work programme – more will be revealed in the Autumn after the summer break.

Please continue to follow us [@SILKteam](#) [@DementiaDiaries](#)

