

Co-design in the age of COVID

Designing online workshops for People with Dementia



CAPITA

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Co-Design and COVID

- Co-design is an important trialled and trusted method for Qualitative Data collection for decades.
- By allowing users direct input and influence in all stages of the design process, you can unlock solutions not considered by experts alone.
- Traditionally Co-design relies heavily on in-person workshops and the use of physical artefacts though many of these techniques having to be abandoned during the COVID pandemic.

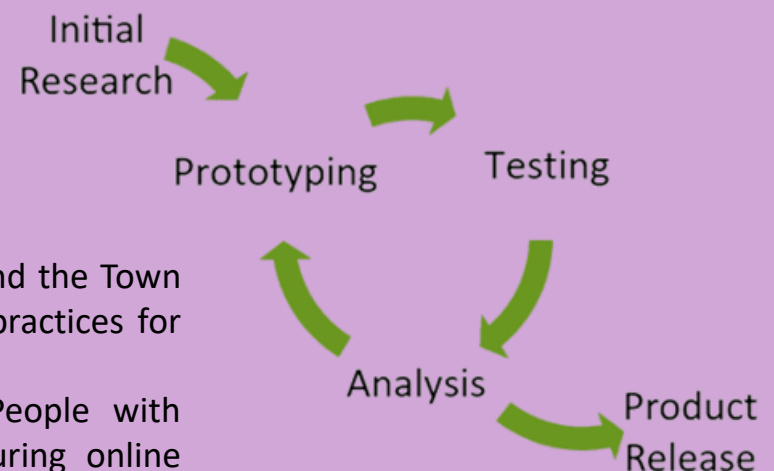
THE ISSUES

Research with People with Dementia

- Dementia was first identified 115 years ago but despite this many studies often lack the involvement of People with Dementia in research
- They are often relegated to the end testing phases especially when it comes to technology.
- Hurdles such as researcher preconception, cognitive inability, difficulties with focus and unfamiliarity with technology can often exclude People with Dementia from contributing more to studies online

OUR STUDY

- Following an Iterative design approach, we will co-design an application alongside People with Dementia, including them in the full design process of prototyping, testing and analysis from initial concept through to functioning product.
- Due to COVID, our original co-design workshops were not viable and had to be quickly adapted to an online environment.
- Working closely with Alzheimer's Scotland, NHS Forth Valley and the Town Break charity, we developed a range of techniques and best practices for effective co-design in an online environment
- These were developed and tested in collaboration with People with Dementia, Informal carers and Health Care professionals during online Zoom sessions.



OUR FINDINGS

Techniques our participants found useful include: Host	Assign a co-host to observe participants and take notes Co-Host	Make use of built in tools to avoid switching between apps Alice	Have participants raise an object when they wish to speak Becky
Message participants if they have anything to add after the workshop Claire	Monitor user participation to encourage even inclusion amongst participants David	Avoid large groups and long periods of time, split when necessary Emma	Ensure everyone can hear you and understand you clearly Francis

End