



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences  
**Knowledge Exchange Fellowship**  
**Project summary**

**Project title**

Improving later Life: the ageing brain

**Exchange Fellows**

Phil Rossall

Research Manager (Knowledge Management)

Age UK

Libby Archer

Research Manager (Operations)

Age UK

**Academic Collaborator/Mentor**

Professor Ian Deary

Director of the Centre for Cognitive Ageing and Cognitive Epidemiology (CCACE)

PPLS/Psychology/CCACE

**Duration of Project**

June 2014 – March 2017

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**Project Summary**

Age UK is the leading national charity for older people. It has a relationship with the Centre for Cognitive Ageing and Cognitive Epidemiology (CCACE) through funding the Centre's Disconnected Mind (DMind) project, which forms the basis of the Centre's Lothian Birth Cohort 1936 (LBC1936) studies on cognitive ageing. The Centre also studies the Lothian Birth Cohort 1921 (LBC1921). The Centre and Age UK have agreed to work jointly on knowledge exchange in relation to the DMind. We have produced a joint Knowledge Exchange Plan to operate from 2014.

Age UK uses its UK-wide reach via its media team, policy and parliamentary influencing work, information and advice, and network of local and national partners, including Age Scotland, to spread the learning from the DMind. As an extension of this, this fellowship is proposed to enable collaboration in producing knowledge outputs in the form of a book, other materials and a major event in order to maximise impact for society from the research findings.

Phil Rossall, Age UK Research Manager (Knowledge Management), leads on implementation of the DMind Knowledge Exchange Plan at Age UK and will work primarily with Dr Robin Morton, CCACE's Knowledge Exchange Officer.

The aims of this project are:

1. To make available to the general public, "lay professionals" (those who work with older people but have no specialist knowledge of the way the brain ages), opinion formers and policy makers the key messages from the findings of (i) the Disconnected Mind and other studies based on the two Lothian Birth Cohorts within CCACE, (ii) Age UK analysis of the LBC datasets and jointly selected additional research sources.
2. To showcase the collaboration of CCACE and Age UK on the DMind project over recent years.

3. To produce materials which signpost the full range of research findings arising from this work.
4. To produce a book *Improving Later Life: the ageing brain*, related and extended web pages and a variety of other outputs (to be decided) to summarise current knowledge on the ageing brain, and prepare the way for exchanging knowledge for future findings.
5. To raise the public profile of research into brain ageing and make the key messages from the research accessible to all without compromising on accuracy.
6. To act as a catalyst for calls for more funding for ageing research in general and cognitive research in particular, from government, trusts, corporate donors and individuals.
7. To provide the platform for further knowledge exchange, including opportunistic activities (e.g. participation at conferences, press releases and reactive comments, TV/radio coverage etc.)

The project is intended as a broad knowledge exchange programme, covering the full range of activities including tailored innovations in KE, jointly between the partners and separately. The aim is to prepare the material and the operational plans and arrangements in the first year, and use the second year to produce the first batch of materials including the book (target date, May 2016). This represents implementation of the first part of the KE Plan. Activity will then be reviewed and plans for subsequent years agreed.