

Access

CHAIR: Professor Chris Fox, Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Norwich Medical School, University of East Anglia

CHRIS FOX is a Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and works in NHS dementia services. He leads three national research programmes in community and hospital care for people with dementia with a focus on improving care for people with memory problems and supporting carers. He was clinical advisor on the arts and humanities research council funded mark making project which explored the role of the participative arts for people with dementia in the UK. He is leading innovation in digital and blended approaches in caregiver health and social prescribing in people affected by memory loss.

I am really looking forward to this session today. I am an Old Age Psychiatrist and I have worked in various types of mental health for 30 years. I have an interest in dementia and digital health, I run several programmes, but I also have an interest in social prescribing and trying to digitalise that. So, there are no housekeeping rules as there are no fire exits on Zoom. I am not expecting any interruptions and the internet is stable today. We have got a great array of speakers this afternoon. What I am going to do is introduce the speakers, and at the end of the talk we will have time for one question only, but there may be more time at the end for the speakers to answer further questions.

We have got Dr Alison Dawson, she is going to discuss technology and social connectedness, and the implications for social prescribing. We then have Zoe Rowe, who works as a social innovation consultant, who is going to talk about technology guidance on remote engagement and removing barriers to inclusion in the context of COVID19. Then we have got David Truswell, who is Executive Director of the Dementia Alliance for Culture and Ethnicity, he will be discussing undiagnosed artists from unknown countries. We then move onto Cailin Lynn, Development Manager, Museums of Northern Ireland, who will talk about programmes for the blind and hard of hearing. The penultimate speaker is Cicely Ryder-Belson, and she is going to talk about ArtsPAL the Arts 4 Dementia (A4D) cultural and creative befriender network, and then we have Nigel Franklin talking about A4D training and social prescribing web directory of events. Without further ado here is the first speaker, Dr Alison Dawson.

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