

## Alzheimer's Society Accelerator Programme: Innovation Buddies



**The Innovation Buddies are members of the Alzheimer's Society Innovation Team with the expertise to guide you through the innovation process.**

Our Innovation Buddies have experience in leading their own innovation projects, designing products and processes to improve the lives of people affected by dementia.

Over the course of your one year collaboration with Alzheimer's Society, you will be partnered with one of our Innovation Buddies.

Your one year Buddy timeline will include:

- **A one day kick off workshop** to agree the innovation approach, key milestones and project plan
- **Monthly face to face meetings** to review progress and discuss next steps
- **Ad hoc advice** via phone calls and emails

As well as being there to give advice, support and act as a sounding board for your ideas, your Buddy will also be able to provide you with:

- Coaching and mentoring on:
  - Innovation life cycles and tools
  - Project management skills to keep the project within time and budget
  - The needs of people affected by dementia
  - The health and social care sector
- Access to:
  - The views and expertise of people with lived experience of dementia to provide feedback of potential customers to ideas and prototypes
  - Advice from experts in evaluation to ensure your product has a positive impact on people affected by dementia
  - Alzheimer's Society communications channels to raise the profile of yourself and your product
  - The Alzheimer's Society Innovation platform (launching in 2019) to test ideas and gather feedback to proposed solutions
- Support planning inclusive and accessible events for any stakeholders you would like to involve in your project

It will be up to you to manage and drive your project though! Your buddy won't be able to complete your actions for you.

**Working together – we can improve the lives of people affected by dementia.**