



# University of Worcester

## ***THE Awards 2019 – Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community***

Institution/Nominee	University of Worcester
Title	Meeting Centres
URL	<a href="https://www.worcester.ac.uk/about/academic-schools/school-of-allied-health-and-community/allied-health-research/association-for-dementia-studies/ads-research/uk-meeting-centres.aspx">https://www.worcester.ac.uk/about/academic-schools/school-of-allied-health-and-community/allied-health-research/association-for-dementia-studies/ads-research/uk-meeting-centres.aspx</a>
Submission	<p>The Association for Dementia Studies at the University of Worcester is helping communities across the UK to set up Meeting Centres, which in turn help those living with dementia to positively adjust to changes that come with their diagnosis.</p> <p>Born out of a research project to assess the impact of a Dutch-based model, two pilot centres were initially established. The results revealed that those who regularly attended Meeting Centres showed fewer of the more distressing symptoms of dementia and a greater feeling of support. However, without funding beyond the research project it looked like these vital life-lines would be short-lived. Therefore, staff at the Association rose to the challenge and helped establish the Meeting Centres as charities, becoming Trustees to provide ongoing support. They then applied for funding to scale-up the programme on a national level. There are now eight Meeting Centres, with a further 20 expressions of interest from communities across the UK.</p>