

# Is this **OUTSIDE** public space dementia-inclusive?

**A checklist for use by dementia groups**



**Has your dementia group been invited to walk round and comment on an **outside public space**?  
For example, a shopping centre, park, station  
or the approach to a public building**

**Here are 9 key questions to think about.**



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

**ECRED**  
Putting the person first

HammondCare  
An independent Christian charity



Dementia Centre



Innovations  
in Dementia

**deep** The UK Network  
of Dementia Voices

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Thanks to Michael Young for his illustration.

## **Suggestions for use**

- You can use the checklist while you walk round and/or afterwards to focus discussion.
- Some groups choose one (or more) people to carry the checklist and make notes.
- Or everyone might want to have a copy of the checklist as they walk round.
- It may help to bring clipboards and pens.
- Some people may prefer this printed on yellow paper.

## **Feedback**

You can feed back to the staff at the end, using your checklist as a reminder.

And/or, if they walk round with you, they could fill in a checklist themselves, recording the group's comments.

And/or you could send them a tidied-up version following the visit.

Keep a copy for yourselves so that you can refer to it later.

Venue being checked .....

Date .....

Produced in April 2017 by Innovations in Dementia CIC, ECRED (University of Edinburgh) and Dementia Centre HammondCare.

Tested by member groups of the UK DEEP network  
([dementivoices.org.uk](http://dementivoices.org.uk))

# Question 1 Is it easy to find your way around?

This is how it should be:	Action needed?	Our comments
<b>Good signage should:</b>		
• Stand out well in its setting		
• Be easily visible, not too high or low		
• Be easy to read		
• Not be reflective		
• Have an understandable picture as well as words		
• Have both picture and words that contrast well with the background		
<b>There should be clear signs to show:</b>		
• Restricted areas		
• Fire routes and exits		
• How to open doors (pull/ push/ automatic)		
• Way out		
• Easy to find someone official who can help (wearing badge/ uniform?)		

## Question 2 Is it easy to find and use a toilet?

This is how it should be:	Action needed?	Our comments
Would you have to find a café or shop if you needed a toilet?		
<b>Clear signs to a toilet should:</b>		
• Stand out well in their setting		
• Be at a height that is easily visible for all		
• Be easy to read		
• Have an understandable picture as well as words		
• Have picture and words which contrast well with the background		
<b>Inside the toilet, everything you need to use should have good contrast, including:</b>		
• The pan against the floor		
• The seat against the pan		
• The basin against the wall		
• The grab rails against the wall		
• The soap dispenser against the wall		
• The towel dispenser against the wall		

### Question 3 Does the surface cause any problems?

This is how it should be:	Action needed?	Our comments
Not too much change in tone in adjoining flooring		
Patterns or joints are not too obvious		
Paving repairs are not too obvious		
Paving is non-slip and has an even surface		
No tricky slopes		

### Question 4 Is the place calm or confusing?

This is how it should be:	Action needed?	Our comments
<b>Nothing blocks your way such as:</b>		
• Sign posts		
• Lamp posts		
• Litter bins		
• Café pavement boards		
• Bollards		
• There are not too many distractions, which can make it hard to find your way		
<b>There is not too much noise such as:</b>		
• Music coming out of shops		
• Very heavy traffic nearby		
<i>Note: If you can measure sound levels, it needs to be less than 65 decibels</i>		

## Question 5 Is the lighting good?

This is how it should be:	Action needed?	Our comments
Enough lighting for you to see where you are going, and to read		
Lighting does not form confusing shadows or patterns on the floor		
Lighting evenly spread		

## Question 6 Is the place safe, especially for people with disabilities?

This is how it should be:	Action needed?	Our comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Easy to understand road crossings</li></ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clearly defined edges of steps and kerbs</li></ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ramps as well as steps to enter buildings</li></ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Easy-to-see handrails on all ramps and stairs</li></ul>		

## Question 7 Are there public open spaces nearby to sit, rest and relax?

This is how it should be:	Action needed?	Our comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attractive nearby areas e.g. garden, park, courtyard, paved area</li></ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good signage to these</li></ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Easy access</li></ul>		

	Action needed?	Our comments
<b>Benches:</b>		
• Lots		
• Easy to see and use		
• Recognisable as seating		

## **Question 8 Does everything you need to use contrast well?**

This is how it should be:	Action needed?	Our comments
Good contrast so you can see:		
• Seats and benches against the pavements		
• Litter bins against the pavements		

## **Question 9 How is the general atmosphere?**

This is how it should be:	Action needed?	Our comments
Gives a sense of security		
Feels easy to ask for help		
Staff seem friendly		
Staff helpful in conducting the audit		

## **Our overall assessment**

Main things we like:

Main things we think could be improved: