

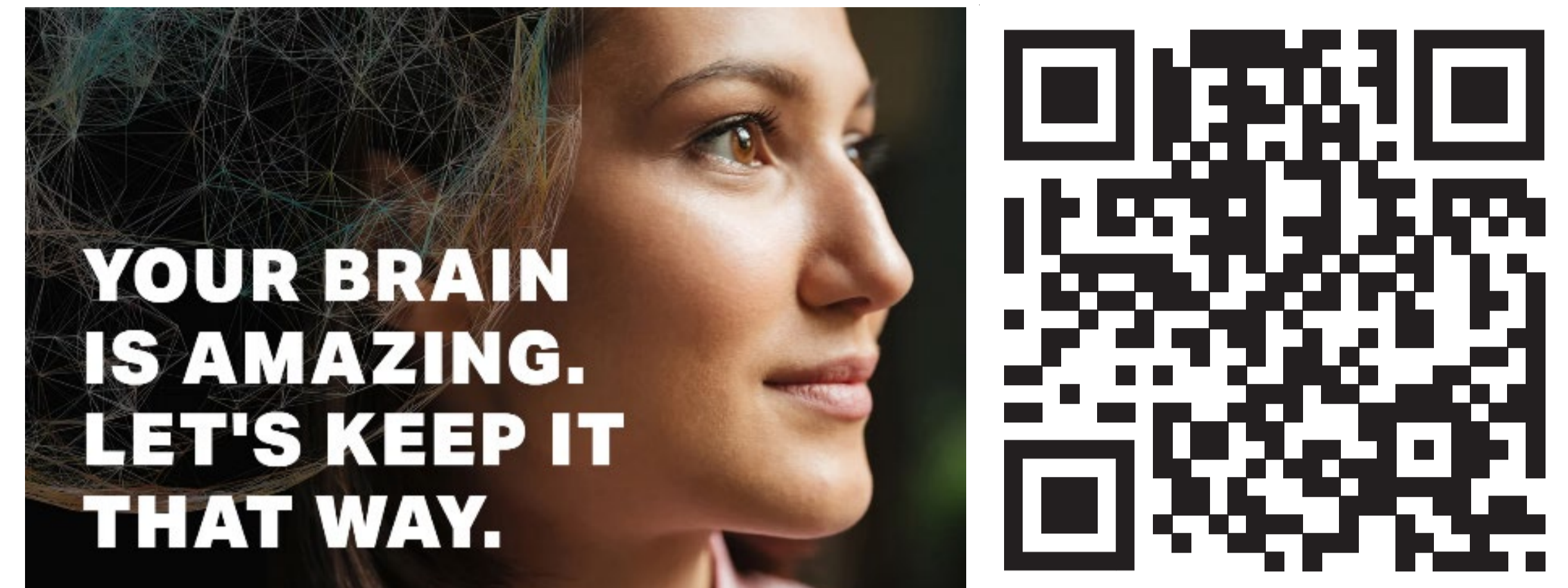
Healthcare system readiness for the early detection of Alzheimer's – learning from the Scotland flagship site as part of the Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative global program

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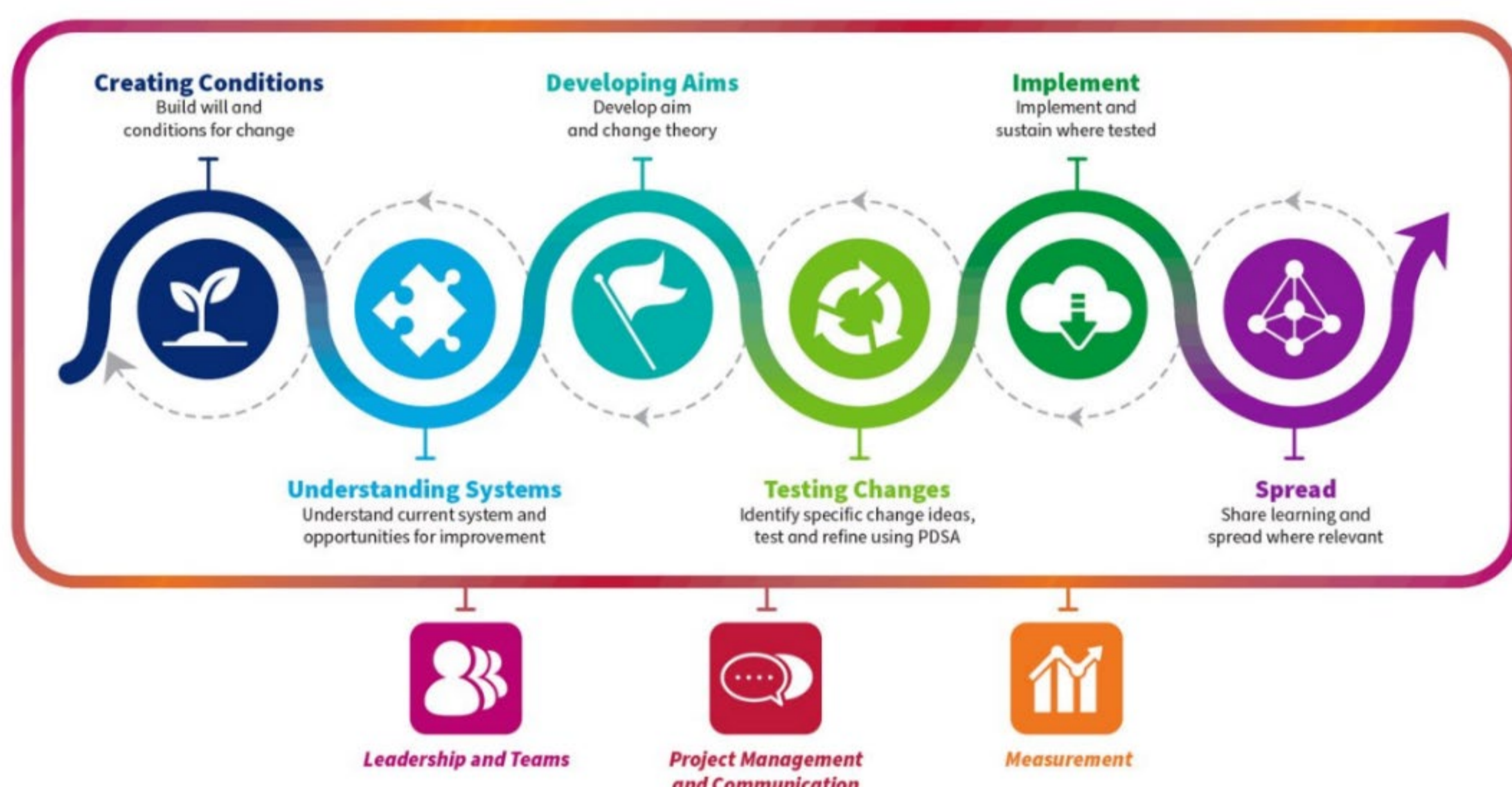
Aims

Brain Health Scotland was established by Alzheimer Scotland in 2020 as part of a Scottish Government program to reduce the incidence of dementia across Scotland and to lead and influence change in healthcare. A partnership was formed between Brain Health Scotland and NHS Dumfries & Galloway (a National Health Service site) to help understand how equipped current healthcare systems in Scotland are for early detection of Alzheimer's and what is needed to enable this further. This is part of the Davos Alzheimer's Collaboration Healthcare System Preparedness (DAC-SP) early detection program and Scotland is one of seven sites across the globe working together to surface and share learning.



"It's never too early, it's never too late to think about your Brain Health."

Quality Improvement Journey



<https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/4095>



Method

A quality improvement approach (NHS Education for Scotland) was undertaken with multiple partners across the system. The project focused on the implementation of new tools into clinical pathways in primary care (two GP practice sites) and specialist settings (nurse led assessment team and psychology service). The innovative tools were a digital cognitive assessment and lifestyle questionnaire (Linus Health's Core Cognitive Evaluation™) and a blood-based biomarker (C2N Diagnostics' PrecivityAD®).

The work benefitted from incorporating the voice of lived experience with support to promote the benefits of early detection from members of the Scottish Dementia Working Group (SDWG) and care partners. Patient information resources were created, and films were developed.

Learning was captured throughout the project in a range of ways including:

- Clinician surveys and interviews at baseline and end of program focusing on attitudes, beliefs, values and behaviours around early detection. End of program interviews.
- Participant questionnaires and focus groups about experiences of digital cognitive assessment, lifestyle questionnaire and blood biomarker.

Emerging learning was shared by all the sites at a regular DAC community of practice.

Thank you to the SDWG members involved: www.brainhealth.scot/dac

Results

Consistent engagement with all stakeholders from the outset and throughout the project was key to success and helped identify and problem solve areas for action.

In NHS Dumfries & Galloway, existing relationships among stakeholders helped accelerate progress.

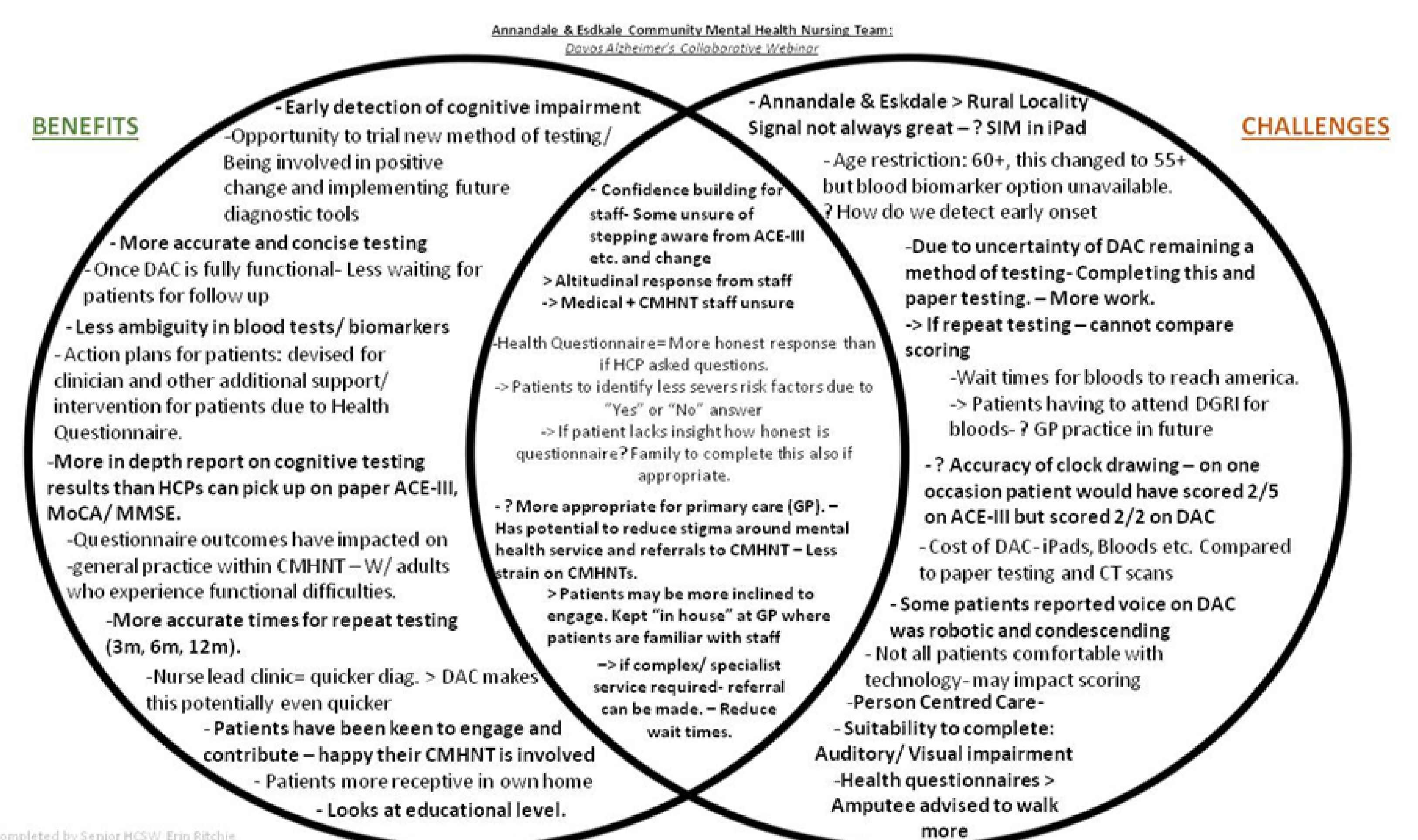
Conclusion(s)

The findings are informing global learning, the national work of Brain Health Scotland and local practice and pathways. The work has included a focus on general population awareness and the importance of public health, and has enabled ongoing future focused conversations and potential developments.

An open access Early Detection Blueprint for Healthcare Systems has been created by DAC and can be accessed here:

www.dacblueprint.org/

For further information, please contact Alison McKean at amckean@alzscot.org



Venn diagram completed by Nurse Led Assessment Team

"This project has definitely made me focus more on bringing Brain Health information into my work and conversations with patients and their families." – clinician feedback