

Supporting Members with Cognitive Impairment attend WI meetings

Do not assume a diagnosis of Dementia. Other potentially reversible conditions, such as depression and Vitamin B12 deficiency have similar presentations.

Ensure Safety of the member to and from meetings.

Ensure the member has someone to look after them throughout the meeting eg carer, relative or WI member who is willing.

A carer should be welcomed to meetings, and not charged – guidelines on My WI.

Remember that the person may misinterpret what is happening especially in dim lighting or if the session is noisy.

Take care with non-verbal clues as people with cognition problems may pick up on negative feelings. Often emotion is felt when words are misinterpreted.

Be prepared for unusual comments and behaviour.

If the member is on the committee and there are concerns about capability, this needs tackling quickly due to the Trustee status. If you have any concerns regarding Safeguarding or Confidentiality, please refer to the policies on the HCFWI website and the NFWI website.

Invite a Dementia Friend to your meeting as a speaker. They are well-trained and free, and will help other members with understanding what a member with cognitive impairment may be feeling and experiencing.

Some useful tips:

DO	DON'T
Agree	Argue
Distract/Divert	Reason
Reassure	Lecture
Reminisce	
Repeat instructions etc	
Utilise abilities	Concentrate on disabilities
Ask, encourage	Force