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| **Innovation Lab**  **SUMMARY**  **PROTOTYPE** |
| Living healthy and independent lives in our local communities |

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| **Date** | **Venue** |
| 27th April 2017 | ODI Leeds, Munro House, Leeds |

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| **Name of solution** |
| What’s About? |

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| **Technologist’s name** |
| Dan Billinglsey |

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| **Description of the solution**  *include group discussions, conclusions, URLs, links to GitHub etc.* |
| Our group’s discussion focused on ways we could help people lead independent lives as they get older. During our talks it became clear that many people are not aware of what facilities and services are available in their local areas. Additionally, where people have an interest in a specific activity it is not always possible to make contact with others who share the same interest.  We decided to create a product that would allow people to discover what is available locally to them. The product could also inform users to specific events occurring in their city. Our solution should be clear and easy to use for people that may not be experienced computer users. By better informing people, we hope that they will be able to lead more active lives and feel more engaged with their local community.  **The product: “What’s about?”**  The “What’s about?” product I developed consists of an interactive map powered by open data sets available from Data Mill North (see Figure 1). The prototype is live on the internet at <http://imactivate.com/whatsabout/>.  The user starts by entering their postcode into the input box at the top of the screen. A marker is then placed on the map at their home location, and they are able to pick from a number of datasets and see facility locations. Current datasets include the locations of allotments, leisure centres and dementia cafes.  Each map layer can be toggled on and off depending on the users interests. I used large icons and visual cues for each item, with the aim of making the controls easy to understand. There is also an added control to set the radius over which to perform the search, meaning that if a person is not able to travel far they can limit the results to facilities close to their home.  The current site is simple to use, and clicking on a marker will tell you the name of that location (Figure 2a). However, there is also the possibility to add much more detailed information. For example in the case of leisure centres you could also include contact numbers or the times of certain fitness classes. As such the site gives a quick representation what’s available locally, but can also deliver more complex information for people who are interested further.  I have also included an example of the kind of extra content that can be included in the site (Figure 2b). There is a message about the upcoming Tour de Yorkshire, together with a link to a cycle hire program in Leeds. This is way to drive people to becoming more active, by linking activities to current events.  Currently “What’s about?” is a website, but it could be ported to mobile devices in the form of an app. It could also exist as embedded kiosk somewhere like a library, supermarket or doctor surgery. This means that even people without a device at home can get detailed local information at a place they can readily access.  **Next steps**  One aspect that could be added to the site is a forum, which would help develop a support community. For example people could discover individuals or groups doing an activity that interests them. We also discussed adding a feedback button. This would enable a person to communicate directly with their local council about features they would like in their area.  The current version contains data for Leeds only. Expanding it to rest of the country would be possible, but would require some standardisation in the structure that local authorities publish open data in.  I feel that “What’s about?” could be a very useful tool for keeping older people active and independent by putting them in touch with activities that interest them, and keeping them better informed about what is available in their local area. |

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| **Screenshots** |
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