



April 2014

Newsletter No. 73

Brain Waves



A monthly newsletter from Innovations in Dementia CIC

The aim of these newsletters is to keep people with dementia and their allies informed about the work of Innovations in Dementia Community Interest Company.

DEEP in Northern Ireland

The Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project (DEEP) has been supporting the development of a Northern Ireland wide influencing group of people with dementia.

Read more on page 2



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Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project (DEEP) in Northern Ireland

In March 2014 eight people with dementia from Northern Ireland got together in Belfast with representatives from the Pensioners Parliament, the Dementia Strategy board, Alzheimer' Society in Northern Ireland, and Atlantic Philanthropies as well as Rachael from DEEP and Ross and Deborah from the Scottish Dementia Working Group.



The meeting aimed to:

- Discuss with people with dementia the changes they want to see in the world.
- Find out if people want to work together in some kind of involvement or influencing group.
- Think about what this kind of group might look like and do.

At the meeting people thought that a new group in Northern Ireland could:

- Feed the views of people with dementia into the Pensioners Parliament.
- Raise the profile of issues (for example, younger people with dementia).
- Challenge stigma and be seen as contributing citizens.
- Influence GPs.
- Draw up a charter of expectations/rights.
- Encourage people to get diagnosed.

They felt that the group should:

- Be made up of only people with dementia (with support where needed).
- Be independent.
- Include people with dementia from each county.
- Map where people with dementia are.
- Have a good structure (for example, a chairperson), and be democratic.

What happens next?

Another meeting has taken place in Armagh to involve more people with dementia. They hope to get funding to develop the group and have asked the Scottish Dementia Working Group to provide mentoring support.

Dementia Friendly Communities conference: Leeds 16-17 June 2014

The programme of this conference, which is organised by the Journal of Dementia Care in association with Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Alzheimer's Society, focusses on local community groups and includes lots of opportunities for people with dementia to contribute. Our friends Trevor Jarvis and Peter & Avril Jones will be presenting.

Come and meet Steve (and our colleagues and associates Damian and Emily) who will be attending.



Steve, Damian and Emily will be working with people with dementia to make this event as easy as possible for people with dementia to attend.

In addition to looking at the conference venue itself, they will be developing ways in which people with dementia who attend the conference can be supported to follow and contribute to the sessions.

If you are supporting people with dementia to attend, please get in touch with Steve. Email: steve@myid.org.uk

Women and dementia

Dementia is an issue that disproportionately affects women. The Alzheimer's Society tells us that two thirds of the people living with dementia in the UK are women and many research papers state that most family carers and those paid to care for people with dementia are also women.

But what do we really know about the experiences of women affected by dementia?

How are their experiences of dementia shaped by their experiences of being women?

In partnership with the Social Policy Research Unit at the University of York and with funding from Joseph Rowntree Foundation, we have started a new project called 'The personal is political: women's experiences of dementia'.

We are working with women affected by dementia to enable them to tell their stories. The voices of the women involved in this project will initiate a debate and open up discussions around the lives of women affected by dementia.

More information will follow in future issues of Brain Waves, but if you want to know more, please contact Nada. Email: nada@myid.org.uk



**Innovations
in Dementia**

Innovations in Dementia is run by three directors – Rachael, Steve and Nada. We are a Community Interest Company. This means that any profit we make is put back into the organisation.

We do not offer services for people with dementia.

Instead we work with other organisations to make sure that people with dementia can continue to take part in their communities and have active lives.

Please share your ideas, experiences and positive stories with us.

Contact us

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