



December 2010

Newsletter No. 33

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.

Involving people with dementia

We look back at the different ways people with dementia have helped us during 2010.

Find out more on page 2



In this newsletter:

Involving people with dementia in our work

Some plans for 2011

How you can get involved

p2

p3

p4



Involving people with dementia in our work

The most important thing that Innovations in Dementia does is to make sure that the views and experiences of people with dementia are heard.

During 2010 many different people with dementia helped us with our projects. We would like to say a big “thank you” to all these people - without you we couldn’t do our work.

People have helped us in many ways. These are just a few:

Making films



One of the most exciting projects of 2010 was our film-making project. People in Devon and Wiltshire were involved in this project. The films are about people living their lives positively, with vitality and creativity.

Telling us about how to design better for people with dementia

Many different groups and individuals have been involved in our project developing the AT Guide - a website that helps people to think about what assistive technology might help them.

People with dementia also helped us to work with AKW Medicare to improve the design of one of their showers.



Speaking out



One highlight of the year was the Swindon Forget me Not group’s presentation at the Trent DSDC conference in September 2010. They sang a wonderful version of ‘Delilah’ with words they had rewritten to explain their experience of living with dementia.

Working with other organisations

Many organisations such as the new College of Social Work, the Care Quality Commission and Dementia Adventure have asked our ThinkTank members to tell them what they think about their work.

People with dementia have also helped us by giving us their views of specific issues such as the Mental Capacity Act and end of life issues.



Some plans for 2011

During 2010 people with dementia and especially our ThinkTank members helped us to develop our priorities for the work of Innovations in Dementia.

They were involved in different projects (see above) but also helped us to develop applications for funding and to think about the ways in which we work.

We plan to continue this work in 2011. For example, we want to:

Improve the way we involve people with dementia

During 2010 we have tried to make working with us fun and rewarding. But we know that many people find it difficult to share their views.

During 2011 we hope to investigate different ways of making sure that people with dementia are involved in our work. For example:

- Working with more people who live in care homes.
- Using different ways for people to participate in meetings - for example using video to let people speak who may not be able to travel.
- Investigate ways of helping people who have problems with communication to be more involved in our work.

Develop our training courses

Innovations in Dementia provides training for a lot of very different organisations ranging from the Metropolitan Police to the Alzheimer's Society.

During 2010, we put together a group of people with dementia to review the core training we offer - and to make sure that the messages we put across reflect the voices of people with dementia.

During 2011 we want to develop these ideas further. We want to investigate:

- Ways in which a wide variety of people with dementia can be involved in developing and delivering training.
- How people's experiences of living with dementia can be included in training.
- Ways to involve people with dementia in the development of training resources beyond talking about their personal experiences.



How you can get involved

People with dementia and their allies can get involved with Innovations in Dementia in a number of ways. These are just two:

Consultation partners

We have a small group of people with dementia who guide us with our work, but we also involve people with dementia through existing groups such as care homes, day centres and peer support groups.

We will always pay travel and refreshments costs - and we aim to make working with us fun and rewarding for all involved!

We are always expanding our network of consultation partners - so please contact us if you want to know more.

Associates

We would also like to build up a network of professionals who would be able to work with us on specific projects. If you agree with our thoughts and aims and would like to work with us on a freelance basis, please get in touch.



**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

Email: ideas@innovationsindementia.org.uk. Telephone: 01392 420076

Innovations in Dementia CIC, PO Box 616, Exeter, EX1 9JB

Website: www.myid.org.uk

If you wish to receive (or stop receiving) copies of this newsletter email newsletter@innovationsindementia.org.uk

Registered as a community interest company No. 06046815