



December 2012

Newsletter No. 57

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.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Thank you for your support and encouragement throughout the year,

Rachael, Steve and Nada



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Looking back at 2012:

Helping to start make dementia-friendly communities real

Many of the projects we have worked on this year have had dementia-friendly communities as a theme.

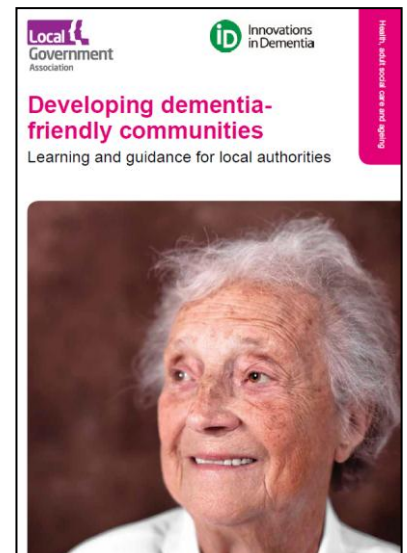
We know that for dementia-friendly communities to become a reality people with dementia need to be at the heart of this work. All of our work has involved listening to people with dementia and often walking with people with dementia around their communities.

More support for people with dementia

People with dementia have told us that it is hard to be active in their communities without support. For example, as part of our work with Alzheimer's Society of Ireland we recognised the importance of services geared towards people with dementia at a local level, especially peer support groups and one-to-one support.

Practical support for people working on the High Street

As part of our work with Hampshire County Council through the Ageing Well programme of the Local Government Association, we produced a toolkit for High Street businesses. The toolkit includes ideas for how to engage with people with dementia and carers, briefing notes for businesses about why being dementia-friendly is important, information about staff training and what customer-facing staff should know, and the basics about how to start a 'memory aware' High Street scheme.



Getting everyone talking

Joseph Rowntree Foundation is committed to making sure that the recommendations from the report into making York a dementia-friendly community actually happen. One simple recommendation was that we should all talk more about dementia.

Working with local people and organisations

One of the findings of the JRF work in York was that people with dementia should be central to planning for the future. We are working with local organisations in York and elsewhere to help them to make sure that people with dementia are involved with them in positive ways. Examples include supporting people with dementia to help choose projects for funding and helping local Age UKs to make their services welcoming for people with dementia.





Looking forward to 2013:

Supporting people with dementia to create a network

One of our most exciting projects in 2013 is DEEP (Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project).

One of the objectives of DEEP is to support existing groups of people with dementia to connect with each other and share knowledge.

We have started to collect some ideas from people with dementia around the country about what DEEP could do to help them. These include:

- Provide ways in which groups can be contacted.
- Share tips and advice.
- Provide 'shadowing' and 'mentoring' opportunities between groups.
- Support less confident people with dementia to participate in DEEP.
- Collate positive images and messages about living with dementia.
- Support groups to build capacity.
- Support people with dementia to continue to contribute to groups as their needs change.

Rachael is contacting all groups we know about to find out:

- What goals the group has (what does the group want to achieve; who does the group want to influence).
- Offers of help, support or advice that the group can make to other groups.
- Needs and requirements (what would help the group to achieve its goals?)
- What can DEEP do to help groups to thrive.

If you know about a group that would like to get involved, please contact Rachael on 01392 420076 or email rachael@myid.org.uk

All our reports, videos and other materials can be downloaded from our website –
Go to www.innovationsindementia.org.uk and click on 'resources'





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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