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Brain Waves



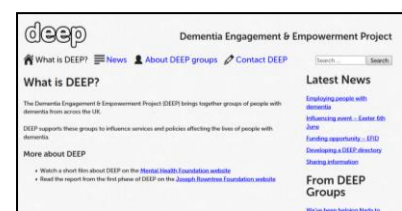
A monthly newsletter from Innovations in Dementia CIC

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.

Designing websites for people with dementia

As part of the DEEP project, Nada has been talking to people with dementia about good website design.

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Designing websites for people with dementia

More and more organisations (including ourselves) are creating websites that we hope will be useful for people with dementia.

Many people with dementia tell us that they find using computers difficult for all sorts of reasons. However, more and more people with cognitive problems are using the internet to find out about dementia and what support is available.

As part of the Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project (DEEP) Nada is talking to groups around the country to find out what people producing websites should think about.



She has also teamed up with YoungDementia UK. YoungDementia UK are in the process of redesigning their website and want to make sure it is as easy to use for people with dementia and their families as possible.



“It was aimed at me, but they missed”

Many websites may contain helpful information and advice for people with dementia, but if that information cannot be found or understood, it is useless.

So far people with dementia have told us that language is very important:

- Headings need to be clear and simple.
- Avoid using words or phrases that are too broad such as ‘planning ahead’.
- Avoid phrases that don’t have a clear meaning such as ‘services’.
- Be precise – for example, what is covered in a ‘News’ section.

Design is also important. Designers need to think about:

- Using large type.
- Using bold where it is helpful.
- Using pictures that are relevant and meaningful.
- Make links clear.
- Avoiding distractions.

What happens next?

Nada will be talking to other groups about the DEEP website – www.dementivoices.org.uk – and making changes based on what they tell her. It will be a slow process, but we hope the website will improve over time.



Guidance for film-makers working with people with dementia

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) is doing lots of work around dementia under the title Dementia Without Walls.

JRF want to produce some short films that will represent and promote the work they are doing. We have been working with them to make sure that these videos reflect the views and experiences of people with dementia.

As part of this work we have organised two workshops where people with dementia have got together with a professional film-making company (One and Other TV based in York) and JRF staff.

At these workshops we discussed issues around the content and tone of films about people with dementia, as well as more complicated issues such as getting meaningful consent to be filmed. Some of the findings were:

Film-makers should ensure that films:

- Show people living well with dementia to reduce fear and stigma.
- Avoid stereotypes.
- Avoid a patronising attitude.
- Make it look real.
- Always portray people with dementia with respect.
- Include an element of fun.

During the filming process, professional film-makers should:

- Be calm.
- Reduce noise.
- Remove distractions.
- Not be in a rush.
- Avoid being interrupted.
- Create a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere in an accessible venue.
- Give people with dementia time to speak.
- Avoid too many conversations happening at once.
- Make sure people have fun.

What happens next?

We are developing some guidance for film-makers which will be distributed as part of the Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project (DEEP).

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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