



July 2015

Newsletter No. 88

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.

Dementia Engagement with Nature

Since April 2015, more than 50 people with dementia have taken part in a discussion about getting out into nature.

Find out more on page 2.



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Striking early findings from Dementia Engagement with Nature Project



Since April 2015, more than 50 people with dementia have taken part in a discussion about getting out into nature.

We have spoken to groups of people with dementia in Stockwell, Reading, Redditch, Canterbury, York and Salisbury as well as others on a one to one basis.

This was done as part of the DEN (Dementia Engagement with Nature) project being run by Dementia Adventure, who asked us to make sure that people with dementia had their say.

The report will be published soon, but there is one potentially very significant finding which we noticed when we compared the results to some earlier work we did in 2010.

Back in 2010 we worked with people with dementia to find out what the idea of a dementia friendly community meant to them. We asked them what stopped them getting out and about. Almost every one of the people we spoke to replied that the most significant barrier was their dementia.

The questions we asked in this DEN work were slightly different - but it would appear that “dementia” as a barrier to getting out and about has slipped to third place, behind “the environment” and “support”.

This is potentially significant as it might suggest a shift in the way that people view their dementia, and their relationship with the world around them.

We know that there is a lot that can, and needs, to be done to make our environment easier for all of us to use, including people with dementia, and it seems as though more and more people with dementia are saying the same thing.



Continued funding for DEEP

We are thrilled to announce a major new funding package for DEEP. This will cover the next 4 year phase, up until the end of 2019.

The funding comes from three funders: Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Comic Relief and Life Changes Trust.

There are currently 50 groups across the UK. The new funding will be used to strengthen these groups as well as support the development of many more in Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

There will be two new coordinator posts to assist Rachael Litherland in keeping in contact with all the groups.

People with dementia get involved with consumer research

Innovations in Dementia have joined forces with Rica for a new project about consumer testing of products and services by people with dementia.

Rica is a well-established charity that works in partnership with older and disabled people to do various consumer research projects. This might mean getting people together to discuss a particular service or asking people to test a new piece of equipment.



Rica are very keen to expand their work to include people with dementia and thought that DEEP groups would be the best people to work with. They want to test out different ways of working to make sure that people with dementia can be included in this type of consumer research in ways that suit them.

For more information about Rica visit the Rica website: www.rica.org.uk

If you have got any ideas of a local service (not just health or social care), facility or product that you think might need improving or are in touch with any organisations who want to become more dementia-friendly, please let Nada know. 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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