



May 2013

Newsletter No. 62

# Brain Waves



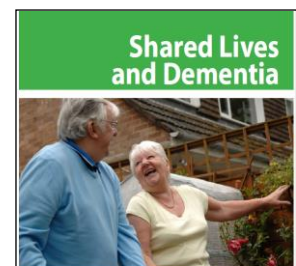
**A monthly newsletter from Innovations in Dementia CIC**

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.

## Shared Lives for people with dementia – project conclusions

Our three-year national project to support and evaluate Shared Lives for people with dementia has come to an end.

Find out about some of the findings from this project on pages 2 & 3,



### In this newsletter:

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| Shared Lives for people with dementia               | p2 |
| DEEP networking event – invitation to professionals | p3 |
| Tools to help create dementia-friendly communities  | p4 |

## Shared Lives for people with dementia

Our three-year national project to support and evaluate Shared Lives for people with dementia has come to an end. This has been a partnership project with Shared Lives South West, funded by the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation.

Shared Lives is a form of social care that offers permanent or short breaks in the home of a local family.

Shared Lives services are all about one household sharing their lives, families, home, interests, experience and skills with others who need help.

The person is welcomed as a member of the family and supported by a Shared Lives carer. The Shared Lives carer is checked, approved, trained and monitored by the Shared Lives scheme.

We provided:

- training and training materials about dementia to 150+ Shared Lives schemes
- ways to share good practice about how to provide Shared Lives to people with dementia
- support for schemes to develop dementia specific services.

We also evaluated the outcomes of Shared Lives for people with dementia, their family carer, the Shared Lives carer, the Shared Lives scheme and commissioners of services.



### Conclusions from the Shared Lives project

- A growing number of Shared Lives schemes are working with people with dementia, usually providing respite care.
- People with dementia and family carers responded very positively to Shared Live services. Those who used it felt it was very personal and reliable, and that the person with dementia had a great time. People felt it was a positive alternative to respite care in a residential care service.
- The success of the service is maximised when the relationship between a person with dementia and a Shared Lives carer starts relatively early. However, this is problematic in funding terms – eligibility for social and health care funding is often only available later on in a person's illness.
- Shared Lives is not well known in the dementia field.

We have published training materials and a 'how to do it' pack that will be sent to all Shared Lives schemes in the country.

The Association for Dementia Studies at the University of Worcester has written a review document making the business case for Shared Lives for people with dementia.

If you are interested in receiving an executive summary of the findings from the project please email Rachael  
Email: [rachael@myid.org.uk](mailto:rachael@myid.org.uk)

#### Network event for people with dementia – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2013

##### **Calling professionals in the South West**

As part of our Dementia Engagement and Empowerment project (DEEP), we are supporting the Torbay Dementia Leadership group to host a network event in Exeter on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June.

The event is to connect user involvement groups of people with dementia in the South West.

Members of the network are keen to engage and debate with local professionals. We have a few spaces for professionals available.

If you are interested in attending the event please contact Rachael (email: [rachael@myid.org.uk](mailto:rachael@myid.org.uk)) by Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June.



## Tools to help create dementia-friendly communities

Last Spring we published our dementia-friendly communities toolkit.

Since then, a lot of work has been done on the issue of dementia-friendly communities. This issue has been boosted by the Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia - and the progress report published this month tells us that "more than 50 cities, towns and villages are already taking action to become dementia-friendly".

For more information visit the Dementia Challenge website

Go to: <http://dementiachallenge.dh.gov.uk/2013/05/15/progress-on-dfcs/>

It is great that so many people are now involved in making our communities better places for people with dementia to live. It is also good to know that the tools that we made available last year have been widely used, and continue to be requested. So far, we know that they have been used in:

Perth	Falmouth	Wirral	Bradford	Walsall
Dorset	Suffolk	Exeter	Bath	Cleveland
Barnsley	East London	Blackburn	Solihull	Coventry
Wolverhampton	Gloucester	Preston	Isle of Wight	West Cumbria
Stockton	Blackpool	Doncaster	Halifax	North Tyneside

and Wigan

...by Local Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Housing Associations, Dementia Action Alliances, Alzheimer's Society, Age UK, and the Rotary Club.

In some areas, local versions have been produced. In Walsall, for example, the tools were locally rebranded by Walsall CCG, Pathways for Life, Walsall Council and Alzheimer's Society.

It is likely that many, many more toolkits have been downloaded - the ones above are just the ones we know about!

We would like to thank the Local Government Association, for whom the tools were initially developed, for giving us permission to distribute the tools so widely.

The toolkit is available free of charge from the Innovations in Dementia website

Go to: [www.innovationsindementia.org.uk/projects\\_communities.htm](http://www.innovationsindementia.org.uk/projects_communities.htm)



**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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