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Newsletter No. 74

Brain Waves

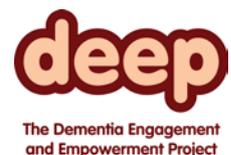


A monthly newsletter from Innovations in Dementia CIC

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.

Update from DEEP

Innovations in Dementia supports DEEP (dementia engagement and empowerment project) - an emerging UK network of involvement and influencing groups of people with dementia. Read more on page 2



In this newsletter:

Update from DEEP	p2
Some examples of DEEP groups in action	p3
• At Dementia Action Alliance	
• At Alzheimer's Show	
• At Self Sustaining Communities conference	

Update from DEEP

Innovations in Dementia supports DEEP - an emerging UK network of involvement and influencing groups of people with dementia.



**The Dementia Engagement
and Empowerment Project**

Groups range from Stockport to Cornwall, Scotland to Northern Ireland, Southampton to Shipley. Some are national campaigning groups (e.g. the Scottish Dementia Working group), others are groups that meet to support each other, or to receive care. Some groups are starting to connect around a particular identity (e.g. a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender network).

But what these groups have in common is that people with dementia want to change the way that dementia is perceived, and to have a say in services and decision that affect them.

There are now an amazing 37 groups that are part of the DEEP network, carrying out a range of work. At a national level this includes:

- work to create dementia friendly conferences and meetings
- a standing group influencing the Dementia Action Alliance
- reviewing the national dementia strategy
- influencing the British Psychological Society's work on best practice approaches to diagnosis of dementia and post diagnosis support
- influencing a House of Lords select committee on a review of the Mental Capacity Act

For more information about DEEP and a range of guidance and examples please visit the DEEP website

Go to: www.dementivoices.org.uk

Some examples of DEEP groups in action

Here are some examples of the work that DEEP groups do and how it ties in with the wider work of Innovations in Dementia.



Dementia Action Alliance meeting

The Dementia Action Alliance met in London on 6th May. The subject of the day was “dementia friendly environments”.

Steve spoke about the need to involve people with dementia. He said that:

- people with dementia have a right to be involved in decisions that affect their lives
- people with dementia understand better than anyone what it is like to find your way around with dementia
- there is a lot that can be done to make it easier for people to get involved.

There were a good number of people with dementia at the meeting. Many came with groups that are part of the DEEP network - these included Forget me Nots from Kent, Age UK Camden, and the dementia advisers from Central & North West London NHS Foundation Trust.

It was great to see so many people with dementia at the meeting - and in fact the very first question to a speaker came from a person with dementia.



Forget me Nots Swindon at Alzheimer's Show

The Forget me Nots from Swindon gave a presentation as part of the exhibition at the Alzheimer's Show in London in May 2014.

They talked about how important it is for professionals to listen to what people with dementia say.

They were introducing a showing of their film produced by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) called 'Getting to know the person with dementia: the impact of diagnosis'

To watch the film go to the SCIE website:
<http://www.scie.org.uk/socialcaretv/>



Dementia: Self Sustaining Communities

Steve and the Kent Forget me Nots presented together at this conference in Maidstone. Steve spoke about DEEP and the wider work Innovations has been doing around dementia-friendly communities.

Keith, Carolina and Chris from the Forget me Nots gave powerful personal accounts of their experience of living with dementia. However, they went further than talking about their personal experience, and talked about the work of the Forget me Not group. They spoke about the impact of being members of the group - but also about how it is being able to influence decisions at a high level. Keith gave as an example the recent work the group did for the House of Lords around the Mental Capacity Act.

Here are Keith's closing comments:

We hope we have given you a sense of some of the achievements of Kent Forget Me Nots, the group of people with dementia who we have spoken on behalf of today.

We are closely allied to the aims and aspirations of the DEEP network.

At our meeting last week, we talked about people who have inspired us. The doctor/clinical psychologist who shares the chair with me, without hesitation said that it is the members of this group who inspire her.

I hope that what we've shared with you today will inspire you.



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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