

April 2008

Newsletter No. 2

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.

What does identity mean to you?

The initials of Innovations in Dementia are 'ID'. Many people will recognise those initials as they appear in the news, mainly because of the Government's plans to introduce ID cards. ID stands for 'identity'.

People who are diagnosed with dementia often feel frightened that their identity is changing.

We'd like to hear from you about what your 'identity' means to you (contact details on page 3).



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People with dementia using computers

We at Innovations in Dementia know that, with support, people with dementia can retain skills and learn new ones. That is why we try to work with organisations to help them work in different ways with people with dementia.

We believe that computers are opening up new worlds for many people - providing opportunities to communicate with others, pursue hobby and leisure interests, and have fun.



Many people think that older people are not interested in computers. But this is not true. Organisations like Age Concern have long been working to help older people to learn computer skills and to get connected to the internet. We see no reason why people with dementia should not use computers too.

Computers at day centres

Innovations in Dementia is working jointly with Dementia Voice/Housing21 on a project that enables people with dementia to have access to computer technology at the day centres they attend. This project is funded by the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA).

The project involves working with staff at the day centres to think of interesting ways in which people with dementia can use the computer. We concentrate on using everyday software that people may have used before or that family members may be familiar with. PowerPoint is used to help people create identity books about themselves, their lives and their likes and dislikes. Word can be used to help people make things such as cards or calendars.

People at the day centres will also be encouraged to use the internet. The internet can open up a new world - start new conversations, restart old hobbies, and allow people to communicate across the world.

Other people with dementia using computers

We know that people with dementia enjoy using computers. For example, Nada works with the Alzheimer's Society Hounslow Computer Club, a group of carers, former carers and people with dementia. The group meets once a week to learn about computers and use the computers to tell people about the work of the branch and about the experience of dementia.

The Alzheimer's Society also has a specific website run by people with dementia for people with dementia called Alzheimer's Forum - www.alzheimers.org.uk/alzheimersforum.

Tell us what you're doing

We would like to hear from you if you have dementia and like using a computer or if you are part of a group that uses a computer.

Email: nada@innovationsindementia.org.uk. Telephone: 01392 420076

Working with the Metropolitan Police

Steve has been helping the Metropolitan Police with their enquiries.....but don't worry, he hasn't been arrested.

Innovations in Dementia were asked to provide training for specialist officers from the Metropolitan Police. People with dementia may come into contact with the police service as victims of crime, as witnesses, or indeed as suspects. The police may also be involved if someone with dementia loses their way, and needs help to get home. Steve has already delivered three courses to help officers understand dementia and to help them to communicate more effectively. More courses are due to be delivered later in the year.

Let us know about your experiences

Perhaps you have been a victim of crime or a witness, or a suspect in an investigation? Perhaps you are a serving or former police officer? We would be very interested to hear from you if you have experience of contact with the police service.

Your experiences could help us to make sure that the training we provide for the police service truly reflects the experiences and needs of people with dementia.

We would like to hear from you. Please contact us.

Email: steve@innovationsindementia.org.uk. Telephone: 01392 420076



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

Email: ideas@innovationsindementia.org.uk. Telephone: 01392 420076

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