



April 2012

Newsletter No. 49

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 and Empowerment Project update

This project is coming to an end, find out what's been going on on page 2





Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project

The Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project (DEEP) is finding out how people with dementia in the UK are influencing services and policies affecting their lives. DEEP has gathered information from individuals and groups of people with dementia about the activities they are involved in and ideas for the future.

The project is collaboration between the Mental Health Foundation, Innovations in Dementia, and the Alzheimer's Society. It is funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

DEEP survey

The DEEP survey was carried out in two parts.

- Questionnaires for groups and individuals to complete
- Interviews with some of the groups who responded to the questionnaire.

About 50 groups and projects answered a short questionnaire.

A lot of groups combine peer support and social activities with trying to influence policies and services.

The type of activities include:

- Being involved in meetings or advisory groups
- Helping other people with dementia ("peer support")
- Social activities
- Doing talks about dementia.

Nearly all the people who responded to the survey thought that a network of groups of people with dementia would be useful. They thought:

- A network should be as independent as possible, but may be supported by an organisation
- A network should have a strong regional and local focus e.g. meetings around the country
- A network should try hard to involve people in later stages for dementia and others groups who are less involved.

DEEP networking events

Two DEEP networking events were held: one in London in February and one in Stockport in March.

More than 40 people with dementia attended the events.

The events were to:

- Celebrate the achievements of people with dementia in influencing policy and practice
- Provide an opportunity for people with dementia to meet other people with dementia from across the country to exchange experiences and ideas
- Enable people with dementia to discuss the next steps in developing a UK-wide network of people with dementia.

We also discussed some of the findings from the DEEP survey.

The two events were quite different. The event in Stockport was much bigger than the London event and different issues were raised. A mixture of people with dementia attended: some people had a lot of experience of campaigning or public speaking and knew a lot about DEEP - others were new to the idea.

Not everything was perfect and we have learnt a lot about running events of this type.

What happens next?

We wrote down everything people at the events told us – including feedback about how the events were run.

Toby from the Mental Health Foundation will be looking at what people told us and adding their views to the results from the survey to produce a final report.

There were professional film-makers at both events. They are now editing the film to combine the views of people who were at the events.

The DVD of the project and the final report should be available later in the year.



**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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