

December 2008

Newsletter No. 10

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.

Looking back at 2008 and forward to 2009

2008 was the first fully operational year for Innovations in Dementia. From small beginnings we hope to have a big impact on how people with dementia are treated.



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Looking back at the highlights of 2008 for Innovations in Dementia

At the end of 2007, Innovations in Dementia received a start up grant from the Tudor Trust.

This enabled us to visit many people and organisations during 2008.

A big thank you to the Tudor Trust and to Lankelly Chase who have funded us to work closely with people with dementia.

We have also worked with a variety of organisations during the year.

Here are some of the highlights.

- Working with people with dementia at the Forget me Not group in Swindon to design the new Innovations in Dementia logo.
- Working with 79 residents with dementia over 3 months to help them to express their views about future care homes in Camden.
- Starting this newsletter in April 2008.
- Producing a guide to help people with dementia to complain about information that they don't understand.
- Training specialist Metropolitan police officers working with vulnerable adults with dementia.
- Working with Dementia Voice - Housing 21 on a NESTA-funded project to introduce computers into two day centres for people with dementia in London and Manchester.
- Working with 36 people with dementia on two new picture books published by Pictures for Share - 'The Seaside' and 'It's A Funny Old World.'
- Working with people with dementia on the National Dementia Strategy.
- Supporting people with dementia to attend the NESTA Innovation Live event in November 2008.
- Working with people with dementia on a new training package from the Alzheimer's Society about abuse.
- Training Marie Curie staff to help them understand the needs of people with dementia.
- Investigating the potential of adult placement as a housing option for people with dementia. We worked on this for the South West Adult Placement Scheme.

If you are interested in this work, please contact us

ideas@innovationsindementia.org.uk

Looking forward to 2009

In early 2009, we begin work on our video project. We will be working with a group of five people with dementia in the Exeter area to produce videos about their lives and interests.

We will also be working on our 'Start Making Sense' project. We will be holding meetings in February 2009 with people with dementia to discuss problems people may have with information.

We are also hoping to secure funding for a project to look at alternatives to day care for people with dementia.

Piece of my mind

Penelope has dementia and wants to use this newsletter to challenge others to think about how people with dementia are viewed and treated.

We asked Penelope about her personal hopes for the future. Penelope sees medical research as a priority.

“ The most important thing, which is tragically neglected in British medicine, is research and treatment to redress dementia and to prevent it continuing into future generations. ”

Penelope feels that dementia is not seen as important as other conditions because there are more women than men living with it and caring for people with dementia.

“ Who the hell cares about women and particularly potty old women?! ”

Penelope believes that there is a political aspect to changing the attitude of medical professionals.

“ There needs to be investigation of why sufficient resources have not been made available to make dementia a priority ending in its eradication. This is done in so many other fields but neglected in this one. Demands need to be made at a national level upon the medical profession and its financing. Much will depend also upon local politicians being continuously nagged to ensure a dramatically persistent increase in resources at all levels. ”

How do we change things?

Penelope would be interested in your views.

“ All readers, friends and ‘medical advisors’ should make a point of sending us any suggestions. ”

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**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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