



January 2011

Newsletter No. 34

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.

Working with people with more advanced dementia

Innovations in Dementia is committed to ensuring as wide a range as possible of people with dementia are given opportunities to participate.

Find out more on page 2

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Working with people with more advanced dementia

Innovations in Dementia is committed to ensuring as wide a range as possible of people with dementia are given opportunities to participate.

This includes making sure there are opportunities for people with more advanced dementia to get involved in our work, including people living in care homes.

These are just two ways to ensure that more people are involved:

Go to see people - rather than having meetings

We go out to meet with people with dementia in their own environments to collect viewpoints.

These views can then be combined with the views of people with dementia who are able to attend consultation events and meetings.

We think this gives a more representative view of what people with dementia think (or feel) about a particular issue. It is also an important way of demonstrating to those who develop and deliver dementia policy that significant work needs to be done to make sure that more people with dementia are listened to.

Doing more than just asking questions

We use 'innovative methods' to engage with people for whom verbal communication is difficult. These include using pictures, maps, computers, Talking Mats and objects.

Finding ways to communicate beyond 'usual conversation' means that people with advanced dementia could have opportunities to say what is important to them, to express choices and to make a connection with other people - to be engaged.



Tell us what you think

As an organisation we are very interested in testing out different types of ways of engaging with people with dementia. If you want to share your own examples please contact Rachael.

Email: rachael@myid.org.uk

Telephone: 01392 420076

Write to Rachael at Innovations in Dementia CIC, PO Box 616, Exeter, EX1 9JB

Talking about 'end of life' - having difficult conversations

We have recently been working with the National Council for Palliative Care.

They have a leaflet called 'Difficult Conversations' aimed at getting people talking about death and dying - making plans and thinking ahead. The original 'Difficult Conversations' leaflet focussed on people who have chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder.

**THE
NATIONAL
COUNCIL FOR
PALLIATIVE
CARE**

Four people with dementia and one carer took part in a group discussion with the National Council for Palliative Care.

This was a very personal and honest discussion, where people reflected on their viewpoints about end of life issues.

We then worked on adapting the 'Difficult Conversations' leaflet so that it was relevant to people with dementia and their family and friends.

Can you help?

Jo Black from the National Council for Palliative Care is very keen to talk to other groups of people with dementia about the development of the new 'Difficult Conversations' leaflet. If you or your group are interested please email j.black@ncpc.org.uk

The power of film

Nada from Innovations in Dementia recently interviewed two of our ThinkTank members about their views about end of life issues.

These films were created for and shown at the recent National Council for Palliative Care conference. The aim was to encourage palliative care staff to think about ways of involving people with dementia in end of life discussions.



The films were very powerful and we are grateful to these people for agreeing to their interviews being filmed.

Dementia capable communities

We are doing a study for the Department for Health on 'dementia capable communities'.

We are trying to find out how we can make the places where people live easier for people with dementia.

We would like to hear your views

We would like to hear the views of people with dementia, as well as carers, and those working with them.

We are hoping that professionals and volunteers will go through these questions with people with dementia - and let us know what they say.

If you would like to have a say you can complete the survey online, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DementiaCapableCommunities>

Opportunity to take part in a research project

The Health Design and Technology Institute at Coventry University are looking for people with mild dementia and their carers (who live in the West Midlands area) to take part in a trial of a web-based home monitoring system.

The system has been designed to help enable people with dementia to maintain their quality of life and a degree of independence without the need for constant and intrusive monitoring by carers. Potential participants will need to have broadband internet already installed in their homes to take part in the trial.

You can find out more from the AT Dementia website for more details, go to http://www.atdementia.org.uk/newsStory.asp?page_id=287

For further information, or to volunteer for this study, please contact:

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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

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

Innovations in Dementia CIC, PO Box 616, Exeter, EX1 9JB

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If you wish to receive (or stop receiving) copies of this newsletter email newsletter@innovationsindementia.org.uk

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