



October 2013

Newsletter No. 67

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.

Innovations in Dementia and DEEP at Dementia Congress

We hope to meet lots of people with dementia at Congress this year.

Find out what we're doing on page 2



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Innovations in Dementia and DEEP at Dementia Congress

This year's Dementia Congress, the largest annual dementia-focused event, will take place in Nottingham next week.

As always, Innovations in Dementia will be presenting some of the projects we have been involved with throughout the year.

But this year is different because we hope to get people with dementia from groups around the country to get to know each other.

Come to the DEEP workshop

DEEP is hosting a workshop on Wednesday 6 November 2013. The workshop is for people with dementia, whether already involved with the Dementia Engagement Empowerment Project (DEEP) or not, to get to know each other at an early stage of the congress.

Groups such as the HOPE group (Brighton), EDUCATE (Stockport), Open Doors (Manchester), the Alzheimer's Society Living with Dementia group and the Scottish Dementia Working Group will describe their work so far.

The workshop will discuss plans for the future, including what a collective of people with dementia could achieve and how it could reach out to represent seldom-heard groups.

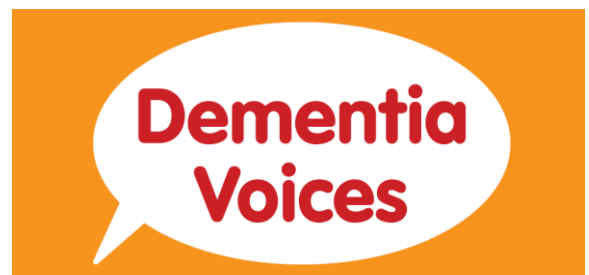
Meet us at the JRF stand in the exhibition area



The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), which funds DEEP, has a stand in the exhibition area at Dementia Congress.

We hope this stand will be a meeting place for anyone interested in finding out more about the Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project (DEEP).

If you are planning to attend Dementia Congress, please make contact with us – Rachael and Nada from Innovations in Dementia will be there, along with Toby from the Mental Health Foundation and lots of friends and allies from different DEEP groups and JRF.










dementiaadvocacynetwork supporting nationally to advocate locally

In September 2013, the Dementia Advocacy Network (DAN) held their annual conference. The title of the conference was 'A stronger voice for people with dementia: Putting independent advocacy on the London map'.

Tom and Iris from the Lewisham advocacy groups were asked to introduce the event on behalf of the Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project (DEEP). Nada supported them on the day and we used an interview format so that Iris and Tom remembered what they wanted to say.

Here are some of the messages from Tom and Iris:

-  "I like to forget I have dementia and stay positive. I make sure I get things in proportion."
-  "The group I go to ... it's made my life a lot more simple. It's put dementia on the map."
-  "I don't let dementia over take me, it will do one day, but for now I enjoy my life."
-  "Tell people what you've got; don't hide away in the cupboard. Once people know what you've got you can talk on equal ground."
-  "We need people to tell other people about dementia. Nobody, anywhere in the world knows if they're going to get dementia and we need to make people aware."
-  "It's not easy, it's frightening. We need help from you [addressing professionals in the room]."
-  "Treat us properly and with respect. We're not mad; this is just something that has happened to a part of my brain."

The chair of the conference summed up the impact Tom and Iris made on the day:

"I thought you were an inspiration. You couldn't get a better example of why people with dementia need society's respect and need to be listened to."



**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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