

Hawker Events/Journal of Dementia Care
Policy for involving people with dementia and carers in our events
14/5/15

Purpose of our events

The majority of our conferences are aimed at professionals who work in dementia care. Our conferences aim to give examples of best practice and current thinking and allow opportunities for professionals in the dementia field to share information and experiences.

We want to make sure that wherever possible, we include presentations from people with dementia and their carers. This is a great way of raising awareness – helping people working in dementia services understand what it is like to live with dementia. Delegates to our conferences tell us that hearing from people who use (or might in the future use) services is important to them, and it also sends out an important message about our commitment to positive practice that places people with dementia and their carers at the centre of services and decisions that affect them.

The most effective way of making sure that the experiences of people with dementia and carers are included in our conferences is to include them in the programme. We also encourage professionals who submit abstracts to include and involve people with dementia and carers as much as possible. (The DEEP guide 'Involving people with dementia at conferences and events' has lots of ideas for involving people with dementia in presentations.)

Another significant way in which people with dementia and carers can contribute to an event is by being part of the audience. Making sure that people with dementia are invited to dementia conferences and events is very important – they, and their carers, bring a different perspective to discussions about dementia policies and services. It can be very enlightening for those who work in dementia services to talk with and listen to people who are using those services.

Supporting people with dementia and carers to take part

Financial support

We are very happy that more and more people with dementia and carers want to attend our conferences. However we are not in a position to financially support large numbers of people with dementia and carers to attend. (We are currently seeking sponsorship to set up bursaries for this purpose.)

All presenters at our conferences, including people with dementia and carers who are part of presentation teams (in limited numbers), can attend our events at no charge for the day of the presentation.

People with dementia and unwaged carers who are not part of the event programme will be offered reduced rates to attend our conferences on a first

come first served basis. The rate will vary for each conference – please see our website www.careinfo.org/events or contact events@hawkerpublications.com.

In addition, we understand that some people with dementia may need support to attend our conferences. Therefore, subject to availability of places, the fee for a supporter will be waived for any person with dementia who needs help to attend and/or present.

We are not in a position to pay expenses for presenters at our events, apart from plenary keynote speakers (who may be people with dementia and/or carers) . However, if we obtain sponsorship as proposed above, some financial help may be possible for others in future.

Other support

We understand that we need to make adjustments in order to help people with dementia and carers to attend our events. We have been working with Innovations in Dementia and the Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project (DEEP) to ensure that presentations, venues, documentation and staff are as welcoming and accessible as possible, and that people with dementia and family carers are supported appropriately to take part in presentations.

For more information see DEEP guides (www.dementiavoices.org.uk)

This policy will evolve. We welcome comments and suggestions.