

Larry Gardiner

Advisor at Young Dementia UK

Oxford, Oxfordshire, GB

I'm speaking from the platform for Alzheimer's Society UK at the Dementia Crisis conference on 5th December 2012.

Biography

I lead a dementia guerilla charm offensive that aims to confront stigma; to challenge the portrayal of people with a dementia diagnosis; and to re-imagine life with dementia. I have dementia. However, dementia does not define me; it is just a disorder that affects me. We have become accustomed to view individuals with dementia as being defined by their symptoms. We want to encourage policy makers, commissioners, clinicians, practitioners, social workers, care providers and professionals in every area to relate with us as people first and to see disorders affecting us as separate. The features of our personhood are not de I love my work! I have the best job in the world. Every day I get the chance to make a difference; often in just very small ways. I work as a citizen advocate by helping people to speak up and to advocate for themselves, by helping them to develop common cause through peer-advocacy partnerships. Anyone can learn how to become more effective as an advocate for themselves and for their loved ones. This is a skill. It can be learned. I work as a dementia activist supporting the creation of independent, autonomous user led dementia working groups. Every aspect of humanity is unique. I enjoy being a human and I enjoy having human connections. Everything I do is aligned to these goals: 1. To help end the practice of humans hurting other humans. 2. To bring humanity to organisations. 3. To give a voice to the human beings who never get heard! 4. To engage and ally myself with every human committed to the same goals. 5. To be the best human being I can be. I'm in the middle of several projects right now, however consideration will be given to specific, limited-time engagements and I'm always happy to refer opportunities within my extensive network of collaborators and consulting associates. I'm especially interested in opportunities involving collaborations within and across EU countries. I only work on seriously innovative projects in my areas of interest (advocacy, leadership, governance, social capital, capacity building, and disruptive technologies). I generally prefer board roles working with social entrepreneurs that also have the goal of improving the world we live in. I prefer NGOs, social enterprises and non-profit organisations that are innovating in the area of communication, to improve their impact and reach across society. I'm especially passionate about user led organisations. I only work where I can follow my heart.

Availability

Keynote, Moderator, Panelist, Workshop

Areas of Expertise

Company Secretary, Non-Executive Director, Program Management

Affiliations

Young Dementia UK Ambassador, Social Audit Network UK, Institute of Analysts and Programmers, Association of Project Managers, Chair of Stichting Rainmaker Network; Director and Company Secretary with Parent Advocates Together Ltd; Steering Group member with Coram Life Education; Director and owner of Quality IT Solutions Ltd; Non-exec director with OSL Networks Ltd; Common Purpo, The Fabian Society End Child Poverty UK, Carers UK Ambassador, British Computer Society, Advisor at Alzheimer's Society UK

Education

University of Oxford - Said Business School
Executive Education

Lancaster University
Applied Research and Consultancy

Ruskin College
Cert HE Law

Newbattle Abbey College Edinburgh
Diploma Arts and Social Sciences

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