



Inclusive Research Case Study 3

Research experiences of people with learning disabilities and those who have alternative communication needs

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Overview

This case study describes engaging a group of people with learning disabilities and those who have alternative communication needs in research to explore their experience of doing research with researchers from the University of Birmingham. Recruitment was facilitated through the existing network of the research management group. Participant recruitment tools like the participant information sheet and consent form were revised to promote access for people with learning disabilities. This required an amendment with the ethics review committee. To maintain engagement, regular communication and updates were shared with the lead of the community organisation working with the group.

Research Area: Experiences of people with learning disabilities and those who have alternative communication needs in taking part in University of Birmingham research

Population: People with learning disabilities and those who have alternative communication needs

Research Methods:

- Interviews and focus groups with researchers, community organisation leads, and members of the public to explore research experiences

Facilitating Participation:

- Providing clear communication of research aim and its potential impact on promoting best practice, building trust
- Utilising existing organisational networks for participant recruitment
- Offering shopping vouchers for community organisation leads and members of the public

Experience of Ethical Review:

- Challenge: Limited study time-frame and need to revise consent materials to promote accessibility while meeting ethics committee requirements for informed consent
- Facilitators: Maintaining regular communication with the research ethics committee and sharing frequent and transparent updates with lead of the community organisation working with the group
Using resources pre-developed with those with learning disabilities and those who have alternative communication needs, as recommended and shared by the group lead