

Research Voices Project Information Sheet

About the project

Many people with learning disabilities have worse health than other people, and their health needs can be complicated. People with learning disabilities also face barriers to taking part in health research.

Health researchers want to make health and health care better for people with learning disabilities by finding out more about why they have worse health outcomes, and how to help. Learning disabilities health research should involve people with learning disabilities.

The Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory has funding from the Wellcome Trust to start a Citizens' Jury for people with learning disabilities to find out more about how to include people with learning disabilities in health research.

We are looking for 12 people with Learning Disabilities to take part in the Research Voices project at the Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory at the University of Glasgow.

Just like a jury at a trial, a Citizens' Jury works together to answer a question. They listen to evidence from witnesses given in an accessible way and have a chance to have an informed discussion. Jury members will work together in groups and make recommendations for moving forward.

To make the jury work for people with learning disabilities, we will ensure that each member has the opportunity to have their say and is supported to do so in a supportive, inclusive environment.

People with learning disabilities who are involved will be asked to come along to meetings to learn more about health research. People with learning disabilities will develop research, communication and team building skills as part of the experience. We hope that these meetings will help people with learning disabilities to feel more confident talking about health research and sharing their ideas.

How long is the project?

The Jury will work together from June 2019 – June 2020. We will ask our Jury members to come along to 4 half-day meetings between June and November 2019. The 4 day Jury will happen in November. We will organise the jury in whatever way is best for the group. We will always let people know when the meetings are in advance and will have our meetings in a place that is accessible.

Who can take part?

Anyone with learning disabilities (or learning disabilities and autism) can take part as long as they:

- Live in Greater Glasgow and Clyde
- Are 16 or over
- Are interested in learning new skills
- Are interested in health or health research
- Are available to attend one meeting a month from June - November and can go to 4 full days of jury sessions in November 2019
- Want to make a difference
- Would like to work in a group



There are a limited number of places on the Jury and we would like the group to be as representative as possible. For this reason, we hope to involve people of different age ranges and have a mix of men and women on the jury. Information from the 2011 Census told us that many people with learning disabilities have other health conditions such as:

- Physical disabilities
- Autism
- Hearing or sight loss
- Mental health issues

The group will be exploring the topic of health research, so we welcome applications from people with learning disabilities who have health conditions.

It does not matter if the person...

- Has not worked in a group before
- Does not know anything about health research
- Does not have any qualifications
- Needs help with their communication

What are we offering people who want to be involved?

People with learning disabilities who take part in the jury can:

- Learn more about health research
- Learn more about how to ask questions and listen well
- Help decide on what the jury will discuss
- Help write something for our website, if they want to
- Use the Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory as a reference for job or education

Scottish

Learning Disabilities

Observatory

- Meet new people and make some friends
- Share their views and make sure people listen

Funding and finance

- We will out of pocket expenses for people who take part
- If someone needs a support worker to join them for the session, we may be able to help with this

How can people with learning disabilities get involved

There are four ways to apply to be involved. People who are interested can:

- Complete an application form and send in by email or post (with or without support)
- Send in a short video about why they want to be involved
- Phone our project lead, Rhiann, and answer some quick questions
- Ask for our project lead, Rhiann, to come and visit them or visit a group they attend to do the application together

Accessible information and an easy read application form is available online at:

<https://www.sldo.ac.uk/researchvoices>

For more information or to submit your interest, please contact Rhiann McLean at the Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory.

Email: Rhiann.mclean@Glasgow.ac.uk

Phone number: 0141 211 3889

Closing date for applications is May 1st 2019.



TalkingMats

