



Public Involvement in the National Priority Programme for Adult Social Work and Social Care



Plain English Summary

Public Involvement in the National Priority Programme for Adult Social Work and Social Care aims to involve people with lived experience of social work and social care across the programme, in projects, and support the development of our understanding of good practice for involvement in adult social care research.

At the outset activity was carried out to understand how best to support public involvement in the programme. Following on from this people with lived experience of social work and social care were involved alongside practitioners and academics in deciding which areas should be prioritised for research and be funded as projects by the programme.

The 5 projects which were selected have all gone on to involve people with lived experience relevant to their project area. These people contribute in different ways to the work of the projects and information about how each project does this is on their individual project pages.

To support the projects and the programme overall the programme also has a Strategic Lived Experience Group. The group has 13 – 15 members who were recruited from across England.

Members have lived experience related to a range of areas of adult social work and social care and caring. This includes people experienced in and new to research. Together with researchers they created terms of reference and a group agreement to support their activity. They have been working with the programme since 2022. The group acts in an advisory capacity to the programme and is also available for individual programme projects to work with on specific project activities. The group has met online and in person. Some members were involved in the recent Programme Showcase in London in April 2025.

ARC West Midlands has also conducted research which evaluates public involvement across a range of social care projects in order to build on knowledge about lived experience involvement in adult social care research. The Strategic Lived Experience Group acted as an advisory group to this work.

Following on from this research the group has co-created documents to support positive ways of working between researchers and people with lived experience. These documents are available in plain English, large print, screen reader compatible, film, and easy read versions. The easy read version was also co-created with communication experts from [Commnicate2U](#).



These will be available to use for other social care and health research projects to support good practice and the inclusion of people who are sometimes marginalised in research.

Activity is planned to share the findings of the research with other social care research bodies and the resources created by the Strategic Lived Experience Group.

Earlier in the programme, to support the development of our understanding of good practice for involvement ARC West Midlands facilitated discussions with other national adult social care research bodies about public involvement to explore ways of working better together and convened a round table discussion between them.

Lead ARCs for public involvement

Co-ordinating Cross Programme Involvement
Lead: West Midlands

Vista: ARC North East & North Cumbria

DiTSoW: ARC East of England

Connected Communities: ARC North West
Coast

Community Led Support: ARC West Midlands

Wellbeing in Care Homes: ARC Kent, Surrey &
Sussex

Publications

[National Priorities Programme Research
Prioritisation Report](#)

[Equal Access to the Knowledge Table Report](#)

- Resources about Ways of Working for Researchers and People with Lived Experience:
 - Plain English Version
 - Screen Reader Compatible Version
 - Film Version with Captions
 - Film Version with British Sign Language
 - Easy Read Version
 - Point 14 font Version
- [Link to Research article](#)