

People with learning disabilities – COVID-19 Support and Action Group



Nothing about us without us!



The Covid-19 Support and Action Group is run by and for People with learning difficulties / disabilities and autistic people

Our Statement on Research about people with learning difficulties, disabilities and autism. Please read!



We continue to see research projects **about us** that are led by non-disabled people.

We are usually the focus of the project (the research subject) or answering the questions.



At the Covid-19 Support and Action Group we spoke about our frustration and anger about how we are not involved as equals leading research projects



We should be included in research, not just as participants but as properly paid researchers and leaders.



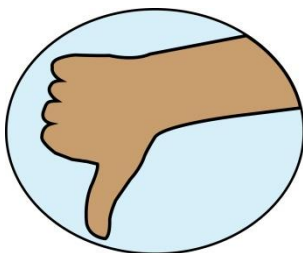
We do not want to continue to just be the subjects of research projects. We want to change the relationship between participants and the people usually leading the research.

There must be equal participation and meaningful inclusion.



There is an assumption that we are not able to have a career at a university or on a research project.

This is an equality issue!



Some people are involved in research projects as advisors, but often our involvement in research projects feel tokenistic.



Co-leadership, co-production and co-design are terms that are regularly used.

We think that people with learning difficulties should be co-researchers with equal status, equal pay, and proper contracts.



Organisations such as universities get the majority of funding to develop and manage the research.



We want resources to be made available for people with learning difficulties to be supported to build our confidence, our capacity, and our skills to do research work.



We would love to work with universities to support them to make sure that accessibility, equality and inclusion are a first thought, not the last thought.



We want to develop research about things that we think are important and want to find out more about.

We want to be employed so that we are part of the process, deciding on and asking the questions.



Employing us as researchers is a great opportunity for young advocates to not just see the possibilities but also see the real opportunities to have a career.

It's important to have the opportunity to show others what skills we have

Who will join us in co creating a new way forward where we work together on equal pay with equal status to co design and co-lead research projects about us?

Get in touch if you are a researcher who wants to do things differently. Email: info@peoplefirstltd.com