



Scottish

Learning Disabilities

Observatory



Research Voices Evaluation Report:

What we learned from this project

May 2021

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About the Research Voices Project	
	<p>The Research Voices group is a group of people with learning disabilities in Scotland</p>
	<p>The Research Voices Project had a Citizens' Jury</p> <p>A Citizens' Jury is a group of people who want to talk about an important issue</p> <p>This Citizens' Jury talked about Health Research</p>
	<p>The jury came up with an important question</p> <p>How can people with learning disabilities influence health research? Including influencing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What research is done to help people with learning disabilities• How this research is done



The group met up for 6 months

They heard from people who know about health research called experts

They asked these experts questions

They thought about what should be done different



The Citizens' Jury came up with 10 ideas for change



This report is about what worked well in our project

This report is also about what we want to do differently in the future

What we learned



People with learning disabilities can be part of a Citizens' Jury when they get the right support



We included people with learning disabilities when we planned our project

They told us what we could change and do better

We think it made the project better



Most of the people who took part in this project said they learned new things and felt more confident



Some people said they felt less confident about some things or felt confused



It is important to focus on communication

We should help people with different communication skills to have their voice heard



We used different ways of communicating like Talking Mats

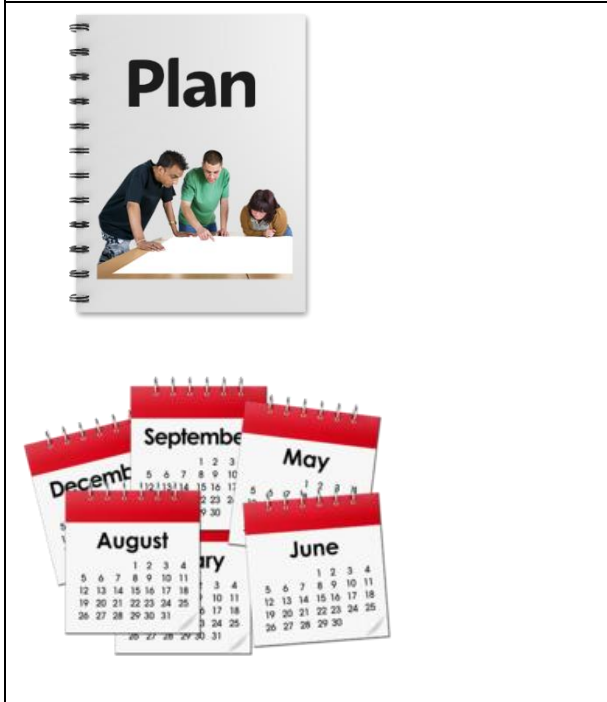
Talking Mats are a tool that uses pictures to help share your ideas

We also used drawings to help us remember what people were saying

The group said these things helped



We felt that some people might need more time and one to one support to understand ideas



We took lots of time to prepare for our Citizens' Jury

We met up for 6 months before the Citizens' Jury started

This time was important to help us trust each other and learn new skills



It is important in a Citizens' Jury to disagree with each other sometimes

It is not always easy to disagree and some people might need help to practice

Other projects should help people to practice how to disagree



Some people in the Jury felt upset when talking about tricky issues like health

We think other projects should make sure people have more support with their feelings



The people who ran the project had lots of experience working with people with learning disabilities

It is important to have the right support in place to help people be involved



Most people who took part in the project said the best thing about it was meeting new people and making new friends

It is important to help people keep these friendships going after the project ends



The experts who gave presentations to our Citizens Jury also learned a lot

Some experts needed help to make sure their presentation were easy to understand



We finished our project before COVID-19 happened

But projects like ours should think about how to keep people involved during COVID-19

Some people do not use computers



We think that people with learning disabilities have important ideas

We think that everyone should hear those ideas

