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Learning Disabilities

Observatory

Research FOR Everyone

Fiona Barlow, Impact and Communications Officer, Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory at the University of Glasgow:

Aaron Hume, public contributor / health and social care student at West Lothian College



What is this project about?

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We think that everyone has the right to health information that is meaningful to them.

We want researchers to make information easier to understand for as many people as possible.

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Why?

- Health research is often written in a way that is too difficult to understand and at times can be confusing
- This can lead to inequality of access to important information and can result in people being excluded.



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Why this is important

“I believe information should be accessible for everybody. It’s important as it brings new knowledge to people who might not be interested before”
(Aaron, self-advocate & collaborator)



“We have the right to understand health information like everybody else, we just have to go about it in a different way”
(Natalie, self-advocate & collaborator)

“The only way we can learn from research and ensure that lives are better for the people we support is if we make the findings accessible and meaningful“

(Jenny Miller, Chief Executive of PAMIS)

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What did we do?

Our Creators team included:

- People with learning disabilities
- Third sector organisations
- Health researchers
- Animators at Media Co-Op



We worked together over 6 months to translate 2 research papers and

- build confidence working together as a new team
- Identify key messages from the 2 research papers
- Decide on which words and images to use to make the research easier to understand

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How we worked together

- My time on the Research for Everyone project so far has been brilliant and bit of fun throughout the way as it was a creative process from the get-go. The reason why we chose 3 forms of output with the info it was because we want to test the water and hoping that everyone can benefit from this work and that they are easy to understand for as many people as possible.
- Within this project we had 2 workings groups which are stakeholders who helped shape the project and promote it through their networks. But we have the main working group of collaborators, which are people with lived experience who work with media co-op to carry out this project from start to finish.
- This is cool as it not every day that a university work in co-production with people who have a learning disability, so it is pretty unique but me and SLDO are committed to change it and make it the new norms as we know people can be able to have a meaningful part to play in research not just as the subject!!



How we worked together

- 8 workshops on Zoom between February – July
- Support via phone calls, texts and email between workshops
- Miro board
- Creative story telling exercises at the start
- Review at the end of workshops



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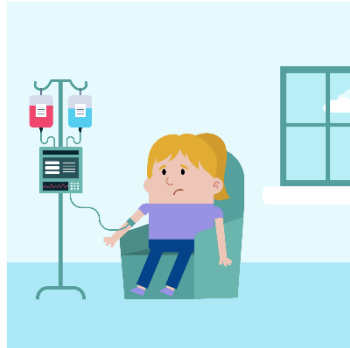
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What we made

We created

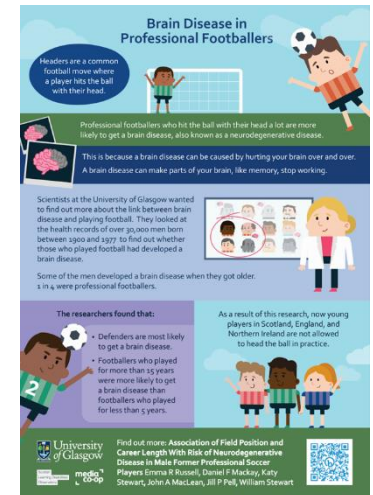
2 x 2min animations



2 x 1-page Infographics



2 x short podcast episodes



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Hayley McQueen



Reach and engagement so far...

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- Over 130,000 people have interacted with Research for Everyone online



- Over 150 people have completed our short survey including:
- Members of the public (children & adults)
- People with learning disabilities
- People with a learning difficulty (e.g. dyslexia)
- Researchers

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Quotes from a few people who took part in the survey

It simplified the information without making me feel that it was patronising in any way (Member of Public with learning disability)

Good way to deliver key information simply and quickly!
(Member of public with learning difficulty)

I am a visual learner so prefer this method. It helps you remember things as opposed to reading lots of text (Member of public)

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What did researchers think?

...which reinforces the importance of this work!!

We included some key questions aimed at researchers, to help us identify if they thought it was a good idea and were interested in making their research outputs easier to understand.

- 25% of all respondents identified as a researcher.
- **96%** said they would like to make their research findings easier to understand to engage non experts, general public, children and young people.
- Barriers to this work: time, expertise, funding, knowing who to collaborate with

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What next for Research for Everyone?

Future funding to refine the model

Creating more opportunities for collaborators

Building skills and confidence to co-create research outputs

Building evidence that this approach is valuable and beneficial for UofG researchers



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Thank you
for listening to us

Any Questions?

Fiona.Barlow@glasgow.ac.uk

ahume15@Hotmail.com

