**Project ASSENT Newsletter**

**Easy Text**

**December 2021**

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| **Headed by:** University of East Anglia  **Funded by:** Nuffield Foundation | Santas Hat, Christmas, Claus, Santa, Xmas, Hat, Red |
| **Progress update on Project ASSENT**  Since the last newsletter, **a lot has happened on Project ASSENT**. **The project**, which **started in 2018**, **ended** in **July 2021**. We **launched** our **end of project report**. This is **available to everyone** on **our website**:  <https://www.uea.ac.uk/web/groups-and-centres/assent/documents>  **You can choose** any of the following **formats**:   * **standard text** - **information that has not been adapted** * **easy text** - **information** written in **simple language** with **key words highlighted**. * **easy read - information** written in **simple language** and **supported by** **pictures**.   **End of Project ASSENT Conference 2021**  **Background pattern  Description automatically generated with low confidence**The **End of Project ASSENT conference** took place on **Friday 25th** **June 2021**. It was **online** because of **COVID-19 pandemic**. It was **attended** by **over 60 people**. Those who **attended** the conference include:   * **researchers** * **REC members** * **adults with capacity and communication difficulties** and their **supporters**.   We **presented what we found** out from **Project ASSENT**. We **showed** some **examples** from the **online guidance** that we developed. **Someone with lived experience** of **aphasia after a stroke** and a **supporter**, **shared their experience** of being **part of Project ASSENT**. Use the **link below** to **watch the conference**:  <https://t.co/FaROH3Wcb0?amp=1>  **Project ASSENT web-based guidance**  **One major output** from our project was the **development of online guidance**. The **guidance** is about **including adults with capacity and communication difficulties** **safely in research**. The **guidance** was **launched** at our **Conference**. The guidance has **three sections**:   1. The **Law** about **including people in research**; 2. The **process** used to **include people in research**; 3. **Practical supports** for **including people in research**.   **Some** people **looked** at the **guidance**. **They** were **mainly researchers**. They **told us how to make it better**. We need to **ask more people what they think** about the **guidance**. We will make the **guidance better** from **what people tell us**. | |
| **Project ASSENT Extension**  We have **received more funds** from the **Nuffield Foundation**. The **funds** is to **make the online guidance better**. We have **one year** to do this. This will be between **October 2021** and **September 2022**. We will do the following to make the guidance better: | |  |
| **1. Focus group discussions**  We will **ask those interested in our research** what they think about the guidance. We will have a **group discussion** with:   * **Researchers** * **Members of Research Ethics Committees** * **Practitioners**   **2. Paired interviews**  We will do **paired interviews** with **adults living with capacity and communication difficulties** and **their supporters or carers.**  **3. Development of case scenarios**  We will carry out **interviews** to gather **real-life examples of communication occurring between people with capacity and communication difficulties** and **those who knows them best**. **Researchers** can **learn** from **real-life examples** of communication. Learning from **real life examples** will **give researchers** more **confidence** to **include** **adults with capacity and communication difficulties** in their projects. | |
| **4. Seminar for all researchers** | |
| We will offer **seminars** for one **year** to:   * **Researchers** * **REC members**   The **seminars** arefor **those in England and Wales**.  The **seminars** will be **about** what we **found out** from **Project ASSENT**.  We will **talk about** the **online guidance**.  **Anyone interested** in the seminars can **contact** Dr Karen Bunning ([K.Bunning@uea.ac.uk](mailto:K.Bunning@uea.ac.uk)).  **Publications:**  Check out our **recent paper**:  A paper **entitled** “A systematic review and narrative synthesis of the research provisions under the Mental Capacity Act (2005) in England and Wales: **Recruitment of adults with capacity and communication difficulties**” was **published this year** in PLoS ONE journal.  The paper looked at the **use of** **laws and guidelines** by **researchers**. We found that **few researchers** **included** those with **capacity and communication difficulties** in their **research**. **Researchers used adaptations** to **include** those with **capacity and communication difficulties** in their research.  **The next paper…**  The next paper is **entitled**: “**Survey** of **ethical review and recruitment processes** under the **research provisions** of the **Mental Capacity Act (2005)** for **England and Wales: How are adults with capacity-affecting conditions and associated communication difficulties included in ethically-sound research?**”.  The paper **focuses on** the **process of including people**:   * **with capacity-affecting conditions** * **with communication difficulties** * who may be **unable to give informed consent** to take part in research.   **Further updates** to be provided **later**. | |

**Future Updates**



We will send our **newsletter** to you **once every** **four months**.

You can also **ask** us to send it to you **by contacting:**

[S.Vout@uea.ac.uk](mailto:S.Vout@uea.ac.uk) or O.Jimoh@uea.ac.uk

**The ASSENT team wishes everyone a safe and joyful seasonal break.**

