

# Project ASSENT Newsletter

## September 2022

### Easy Text



**Headed by:** University of East Anglia

**Funded by:** Nuffield Foundation

## Progress Update on Project ASSENT

**Project ASSENT extension** is **ending** soon. Our project **started in 2018**. It was meant to end in **2021** but was extended until **2022**. The **extension** was to **give us time** to ask more people about how to make the **online guidance better**.

We carried out **focus group discussions** for:

- **Researchers**
- **Research Ethics Committees members**

- **practitioners**

We **interviewed** adults living with capacity and communication difficulties. Interviews were with adults **on their own** or **with** their **carer or supporter**.

### **Update on focus group discussions and interviews**

We have **finished** all **focus group discussions**. We have **finished** all **interviews**. We have **brought together** all our **findings**. There were **lots of useful suggestions** on how we can **make** the online **guidance better**. People told us to **check spellings** and **grammar**. They also told us to check:

1. **Presentation** – this includes:
  - the **use of colour**
  - **font size**
  - **pictures**
  - **animations**
  - and **avoid abbreviations**.
2. **Media** – the use of **pictures** and their **relevance**

3. **Navigation** – making it easier to for users to **move through** the **guidance**
4. **Scenarios** – examples that show different **ways to support inclusion**
5. **Language** – making sure the **meaning** is **clear** using the **fewest** possible **words**
6. **Resources** – adding in a **checklist** of potential adjustments and supports for consideration.

### **Making changes to online guidance**

We have **written action points** from the suggestions we received. Action points are **steps** to be taken to change the online guidance. We have **given** the **action points** to the **company** helping us to develop the guidance.

### **Impact funds**

Alex Tiseo worked as **researcher** on **Project ASSENT** for **three months**. He **looked at changes** made to the **code of practice** about **including people** in **research**, who may have difficulties with making their own decisions.



We wrote a **brief report** about the changes. We **submitted online** on the **14<sup>th</sup> of July 2022**.

We wrote a **longer report**. We **sent** the longer report to **government department** responsible for the changes to the code of practice.

We are **looking forward to** the **changes** that will be made to the code of practice.

## **Publications**

### **The most recent:**

Bunning et al. “**Lost Voices**: Inclusive research under the Mental Capacity Act (2005) for England and Wales”. *RCSLT Bulletin*.

It is a **brief information** about **project ASSENT**.

### **Submitted for publication:**

Killett, A et.al; Langdon, PE “**Inclusion of adults with capacity-affecting conditions and/or communication difficulties in research**: triangulation from a mixed methods study of common practice and values across multiple stakeholders”.

It is about including adults with capacity and communication difficulties safely in research.

We are awaiting reply from the journal.

### Staff training days:

### Research Ethics Committee members

We **continue to share** Project ASSENT findings with **Research Ethics Committee members**.

Overall, we have **completed five sessions**. We have **two more** face-to-face sessions coming up:

- **20<sup>th</sup> October – Reading**
- **24<sup>th</sup> November - London South.**

Next year, we will continue to **share** our **findings online** with **Research Ethics Committee members**.

### Advisory Group



Our Advisory Group members had their **second meeting** on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July**. The meeting was **online**.

We **told** the **group** about the **progress** of **Project ASSENT**.

We also told them about our **plans for the end of project report**.

The group **will meet one more time** to **look at** the final version of the **online guidance**.

### **Project ASSENT Seminars series 2022**

Project ASSENT **seminars has ended**. The **final one** was hosted by the **University of East Anglia** on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July**. The seminar was **online**. It was led by Dr Anne Killeth and **attended by 36 people**.

Dr Killeth also **shared Project ASSENT findings** with **Occupational Therapists**. It was at the event organised by the **Royal College of Occupational Therapists**.

### **Future Updates**



We can send you previous newsletters if you send email to: [S.Vout@uea.ac.uk](mailto:S.Vout@uea.ac.uk) or [O.Jimoh@uea.ac.uk](mailto:O.Jimoh@uea.ac.uk)