

Project ASSENT Newsletter

May 2023



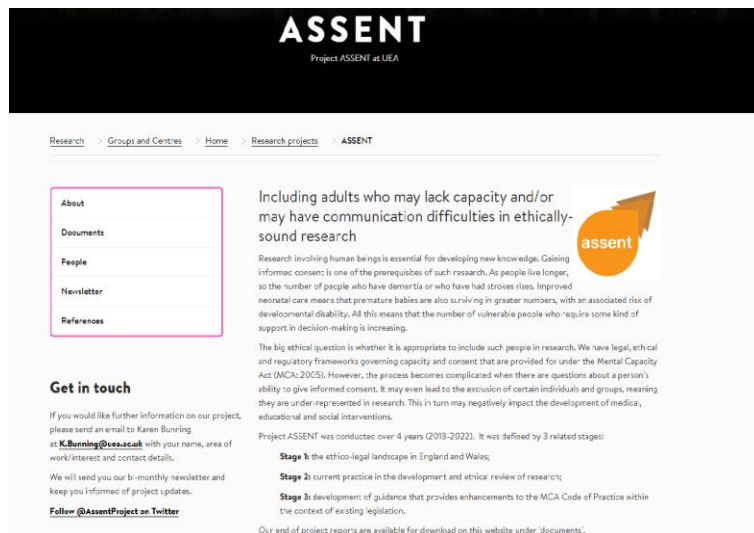
Reminder – Project and Outcomes

Thank you, and welcome, to everybody who has recently signed up for our [newsletters](#). For those of you who are new to our newsletter or for those of you who would like a reminder: **Project ASSENT is all about people having a voice in research projects.** We developed an [assent-based process](#) for including adults who may lack capacity and who may have communication difficulties in safe and sound research.

We are very grateful to the multiple stakeholders who were involved in helping us create our web-based resources to guide and advise people interested about including adults who may lack capacity and may have communication difficulties in ethically-sound research.

We had a fantastic response to our calls for participants to take part in our focus groups, interviews, and questionnaires about the Project ASSENT online guidance. During the development of the [ASSENT online guidance](#), we heard **views from adults who have difficulties with understanding and communication, and from researchers, practitioners, and research ethics committee members.** Hearing from these groups helped us include insights from people with expertise in law, capacity and decision making, supports and reasonable adjustments.

You can read more about our project by **checking out the reports** on our (newly updated – more about that below!) website [HERE](#).



A screenshot from our website.

New Project Activities

There have been some exciting project updates since we last emailed you in September...

Updated Website

The Project ASSENT website has had a makeover! Click [HERE](#) to remind yourself about our project, including [our project outputs](#), [what we achieved](#), and [who we are](#).

You can even check out our past newsletters, in either **standard text**, **easy text**, or **easy read** format, by clicking [here](#).

Involvement in Mental Capacity Act Consultation

We contributed to the government-led consultation on the Mental Capacity Code of Practice. We submitted an online response as required. We also drafted and submitted an extended report detailing our recommendations to the Minister of Health. We are currently waiting to hear more about the outcome of consultation – watch this space!

Contribution to Health Research Authority's Development Days

We've been sharing our recommendations with the Health Research Authority at their scheduled development days in England and Wales. We are delighted to report that our ASSENT sessions have been very well received.

Delivering Training to Staff at Hertfordshire Learning Disability Services

We contributed to a continuing professional development day at Hertfordshire Learning Disability Services and shared our guidance with staff members who work with adults who have capacity and communication difficulties.

New Publications

We have two new publications to tell you about since we last updated you.



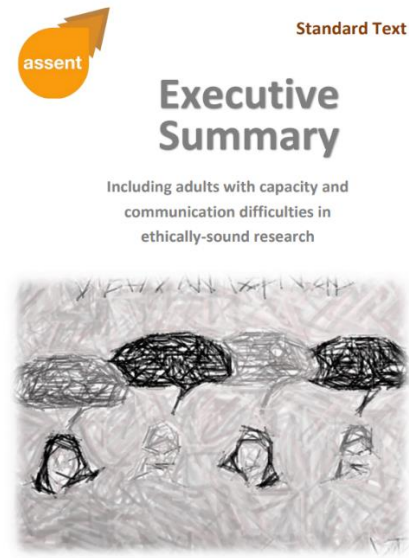
1) 'Inclusion of adults with conditions that have the potential to affect capacity and or communication in research: triangulation from a mixed-methods study of current practice and value across multiple stakeholders' – Killett et al. (2023). Read for free in BMJ Open by clicking [HERE](#).

2) *Bulletin*, The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists featured an article about the ASSENT project by Dr Karen Bunning

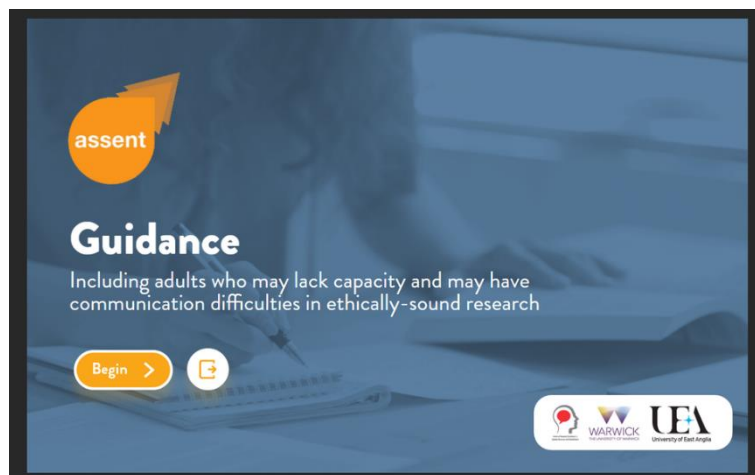


Reports Submitted

We recently submitted our [final report](#) and [executive report](#) to our funders, The Nuffield Foundation.



Our Guidance – Now Revised!



Don't forget that you are welcome to visit our web-based guidance, '**Including adults who may lack capacity and may have communication difficulties in ethically-sound research**' at any time.

We recommend re-visiting our guidance to see the recent revisions we've made. Click the image to see our guidance now.

What's Next?

Your Chance to Tell Us What You Think

We will soon be launching **questionnaires** to help us evaluate your use of the [Project ASSENT web resources](#). After we have received ethical approval from UEA and the Health Research Authority (HRA), we will send you some details about how you can take part – so please do keep an eye on your inbox!

In the meantime, please do **get in touch** by emailing Dr Karen Bunning (k.bunning@uea.ac.uk) if you have any questions or comments.

You can also email Dr Karen Bunning if you would like to receive **newsletters in easy read or easy text format**.

Please do also feel free to spread the word about our newly updated [website](#) and [web-based resources](#) – and invite colleagues and interested parties **to sign up for our newsletter** by emailing Dr Karen Bunning, using the email address above.

And don't forget to **follow us on Twitter!** - [@AssentProject](#). We look forward to connecting there too.

Thank you and speak soon from all at Project
ASSENT.