**Project ASSENT Newsletter**

**June 2022**

**Easy Text**

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| **Headed by:** University of East Anglia  **Funded by:** Nuffield Foundation |  |
| **Progress Update on Project ASSENT**  **Project ASSENT** was **extended** to allow us make the online **guidance better**. We asked people interested in **adults with capacity and communication difficulites**. We had **focus group discussions** for:   * **Researchers** * **Members of Research Ethics Committee** * **Practitioners**     We **interviewed** **adults** **living with** **capacity and communciation difficulties:**   * **on their own** * or with the support of **someone who knows them well**.   **Update on focus group discussions**  We now **have enough people** to take part in Project ASSENT extension. We have had **two focus group discussions** each with:   * **Researchers** * **Practitioners** * **Members of research Ethics commitee**   **Participants** were **shown** the **online guidance** slide by slide.  Participants then **told us** what they **thought** about the **online guidance**. **Focus group discussions** were **online.**  **Update on interviews**  We **interviewed** **eight** adults who experience **capacity and communication difficulites**. We interviewed adults living with:   * **learning disabilities** * **autism** * **aphasia after a stroke** * **and acquired brain injury**   We **could not interview** adults living with:   * **Dementia** * **Mental health conditions**.   We interviewed **adults** **living with capacity and communication difficulties** **on their own** or **with** the **support** of someone who knows them well. The **interview** was **online** or **face to face**.  We have **received** many **suggestions** that can **make** the online **guidance better**. Project ASSENT **team members** are now **looking at** these **suggestions**. We will tell you all about it later.  **A new researcher joins the team**  We welcome **Alex Tiseo** to **Project ASSENT team**. He will be **working** with us for **three months**. He is **studying law at a higher level** at the **University of East Anglia**. He is **looking at** the **changes** suggested **to the law** about capacity and decision making. **Suggestions** to the law is **open** to **everyone** until **7th July 2022**.  **Publications**  **Our most recent paper:**  A **paper** entitled “How are **adults with capacity-affecting conditions and associated communication difficulties included in ethically-sound research**? A documentary-based survey of ethical review and recruitment processes under the research provisions of the Mental Capacity Act (2005) for England and Wales” has been published.  The paper **focuses on** the **process of including in research, people**:   * with **capacity-affecting conditions** * with **communication difficulties** * who may be **unable to give informed consent**   **In preparation:**  We have **prepared a paper**. It is entitled: “**Current practice** and **values** across **multiple stakeholders** about the inclusion of adults with impairments of capacity and/or communication within research: triangulation from a mixed methods study”.  This is now ready for submission to a journal.  **Staff training days:**   * **Research Ethics Committee members**   We have started to share the findings of **Project ASSENT** with **Research Ethics Committee (REC) members. REC members** are teams who **read research proposals** and s**ay whether it is safe** and **sound or not**.  **We have shared our findings on three training days in:**  • London  • York   * Manchester   The **training days were held face-to-face**. **More than 70** REC members **attended** **each training** day. We have **four more** **training days** coming up.   * **Research Design Service** **Staff**   We shared project ASSENT findings on Wednesday 15th June with **staff** at the **Research Design Service** (**RDS**) **East of England**. The **RDS** are **experts who support researchers** to **write good project plans** and to submit it to those who can sponsor it. The **RDS covers six counties**:   * Bedfordshire * Cambridgeshire * Essex * Hertfordshire * Norfolk and * Suffolk.   The **findings** we shared was **well received**.  **Advisory Group**  Members of The **Advisory Group** have been **kept up to date** with the **progress** of **Project ASSENT extension**. We have **sent meeting notes**. We have also **sent newsletters**. We had the **first meeting** on **Wedneday 2nd March 2022**. The **second meeting** will be on **Wednesday 27th July**.  **Project ASSENT Seminars series 2022** | |
| We have shared **findings** from **Project ASSENT** **online** **two** **times**:   1. **Invitation** by **Essex university** on **23rd February 2022** 2. **University of East Anglia** on **10th March 2022.**   The **seminars** were **well attended**.    **Next seminar: Thursday 14th July**  **Presenter: Dr Anne Killett**  **Time: 12 noon – 1pm**  **Venue: Online**  If the seminar is of interest to you or the people you know, **please contact Sharon Vout**. Sharon is our Project Administrator [s.vout@uea.ac.uk](mailto:s.vout@uea.ac.uk). **Sharon** will **help** you to **book** a session. She can also send you the link to join in. | |  |
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| **Future Updates** | |



We will send our **newsletter** to you **once every** **three 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](mailto:O.Jimoh@uea.ac.uk)