



QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST

Personal and Public Involvement Network
Case Study:

GETTING INVOLVED IN RESEARCH

a co-produced introduction to
research course





Background

The rationale for developing this course was based on the recognition of the benefits of co-production in research. It also drew on the experience of researchers who had been independently developing short, project-specific courses for lived experience researchers joining their research team. The aim of this project was therefore to co-produce a course that could be used as a general introduction for anyone who might be interested in getting involved in research, but could also be adapted by any new research projects using a participatory approach. The project was a partnership between Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning, the Health and Social Care Board, the Mental Health Foundation, Praxis Care, Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University. The implementation, evaluation and further development of the course was also supported by funding from the HSC R&D Division of the Public Health Agency.

The co-production process involved researchers with lived experience and representatives from different organisations involved from the beginning of the project to: develop the idea; design the content; deliver the course; and evaluate the process. Improved quality and accessibility of the course content was a key benefit of the coproduction process. The involvement of lived experience researchers in the delivery of the course also demonstrated to

participants that people with lived experience, who may have had little or no previous research experience, can make a positive and important contribution to research in a variety of ways.

The main challenges involved in this project were administrative. The funding was administered through Queen's and the process to arrange payment can be complicated. Another potential challenge was the size of the team but the number of people involved added to the energy, ideas and enthusiasm for the project. The course was run for the first time, through Open Learning at Queen's, in May 2021. We took the opportunity to conduct an in-depth evaluation of the process of developing the course and of the course itself. The course presentations are now available to anyone who would like to use the resources for their own coproduced research projects.



Project Team -

Paul Best, Carolyn Blair, Liam Bradley, Patricia Burns, Anne Campbell, Gavin Davidson, Joe Duffy, Katherine Greer, Anne Johnston, Berni Kelly, Campbell Killick, Alan Maddock, Denise MacDermott, Claire McCartan, Paula McFadden, Anne McGlade, Lorna Montgomery, Aodán Mulholland, Sonia Patton, Dirk Schubotz, Brian Taylor, Fiona Templeton, Paul Webb, Chris White and Jade Yap

Get Involved

If you would like any more information about the project and/or the course presentations, please contact
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