

Community Researchers Impact Report

The Belonging Project

What was the Belonging project?



Learning Disability, Belonging & Difference

The project was called **Show me how and where you belong: Belonging and difference for people with learning disabilities**

 Community researchers were involved in all parts of the project.

 They worked together with university researchers.

How did community researchers feel about it?



Being part of this felt like being part of something important, part of a change.

Harvey

They felt very **positive**. They said it felt:

 Welcoming

 Important

 Meaningful

Overall Impact



Being involved in this project has given me more confidence in myself.

Courtenay

The project helped people:

- 💪 Feel more confident
- 📖 Learn new skills
- 👥 Make friends
- 📝 Understand research better

Working Together



Community researchers liked working in a **team**. They enjoyed:

- 🗣️ Talking together
- 💡 Sharing ideas
- 👥 Meeting new people

Feeling Proud



I was most proud of running the first focus group.

Matty

Community researchers felt proud:

- 🗣️ Running focus groups
- 💛 Coming up with the research together
- 🧠 Contributing their experience and expertise

Learning New Skills



Working on this project showed me there's a lot that goes on behind the scenes in research.

Sirraaj

People learned new skills. They learned about:



Running focus groups



Analysing information (data)



How research is planned

Belonging



It kind of makes you think about how you belong. If you belong in your community.

Kerry

The project helped people think about their own belonging. They shared that belonging means:



Feeling accepted



Feeling part of a group



Feeling you matter

Being included



Being a black researcher it mattered not being just a tick box and lip service.

Becca

Being included in a real way was important. People wanted:



To be listened to



To be taken seriously



Have space to ask questions

Meeting in Person



I want to do my best and sometimes working online, it's harder to express myself.

Sirraaj

Community researchers preferred meeting face to face. They said:

😊 It feels nicer

🗣️ It is easier to talk

👁️ People can see the real you

Things That Were Hard



I've learnt that when you work with university, you have to have a lot of patience!

Kerry

Some things were difficult.

These included:

🕒 Waiting to get started

🐢 Things taking a long time when working with universities

What Happens Next?



More people need to know about belonging and how important it is for people with a learning disability.

Courtenay

Community researchers care about what happens after the project ends. They hope the work will:

🌱 Make a difference

👏 Help others

🔄 Lead to more projects

Prepared by Magdalena Mikulak (m.mikulak@lancaster.ac.uk) on behalf of the Belonging project community researchers: **Harvey Morgan, Courtanay Bird, Kerry Martin, Matty Prothero, Siraaj Nadat and Becca Cooper**. We thank Jo Giles from Paradigm for collecting responses from community researchers.

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