

Involving People in Research: Summary

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An Involving People in Research grant of £2,000 funded development of a co-produced research protocol that will be used to apply for a research grant, with people who access services involved as peers at every stage of the research process.

Four people who access services in a medium secure forensic unit participated in a ten-week collaborative research course. The group learned about the research process, covering how research is conducted safely, exploring issues important to them, reviewing existing literature and developing suitable research methods. Together with the course facilitators, they identified a shared research question: “How do occupational therapists support change?”

The group chose narrative storytelling as the research methodology and plan to involve both people in secure care and occupational therapists as participants in the future study. With the group’s input, the researchers are now developing a full study protocol to be submitted for research funding.

The Involving People in Research grant funding was used entirely to pay people who access services for their time and expertise, enabling meaningful involvement and rich discussions about the role and impact of occupational therapy.