



Leadership and Impact Award related to:
A feasibility study exploring the acceptability and perceived impact of Together Project resources, co-produced to support the delivery of good maternity care for people with learning disabilities.

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Public Summary:

Parents with learning disabilities are often disadvantaged and their needs are not always identified or met in maternity services.

People with learning disabilities may flourish as parents when support and services are personalised to meet their needs. Midwives have expressed a need for support in the delivery of good care to this population of parents.

The Together Project co-produced resources to support respectful, accessible and personalised maternity care (www.surrey.ac.uk/togetherproject).

Four NHS Trusts in the South of England used the Together Project resources, so that we could find out if they were acceptable and whether they were perceived to make a difference to maternity care. While resources were positively received by both midwives and parents with learning disabilities, our findings suggest that greater support is needed for reasonable adjustments within maternity services, in line with legislation and policy.

This impact award funded the principal investigator's time to disseminate the Together Project resources more broadly, to support improvements to maternity care for parents with learning disabilities.



Public and Community Involvement:

Public and community involvement have been an integral part of the Together Project from start to finish. Within the period funded by this Leadership and Impact Award, experts-by-experience have co-delivered two presentations showcasing resources developed as part of the Together Project:

- Royal Surrey NHS Trusts Learning Disability Awareness Day on 25th March 2024;
- NIHR ARC webinar on 26th March 2024.

Dissemination:

This Leadership and Impact Award funded the creation of a directory of the Director/Project Management Officer in all Local Maternity and Neonatal Systems (LMNS) and the Head of Midwifery in all maternity units in England. The Together Project resources will be disseminated electronically to all LMNS, and in hard copy to all maternity units (with copies of an award-winning book which cites the Together Project resources).

Impact and Implementation:

The Together Project resources are freely accessible on the Together Project website. Within the period funded by this Leadership and Impact Award, the resources have been downloaded over 200 times. Individuals who gave permission, have been sent a feedback survey. Feedback highlights the impact and implementation of these resources: *'the resources are great, am sharing far and wide when the opportunity arises'* and *'I have shared this resource with other colleagues who have found the content and format really informative and easy to use and follow'*.

Publications:

Cox A, Ip A, Watkin S, Matuska G, Bunford S, Gallagher A, Taylor C (2024) [Implementing and evaluating resources to support good maternity care for parents with learning disabilities: A qualitative feasibility study in England](#). Midwifery.

What next?

To seek funding for further evaluation of resources in practice.