

The Together Project - Part 2

Are Together Project resources
helpful in supporting good maternity
care for people with learning
disabilities?



EASY READ SUMMARY

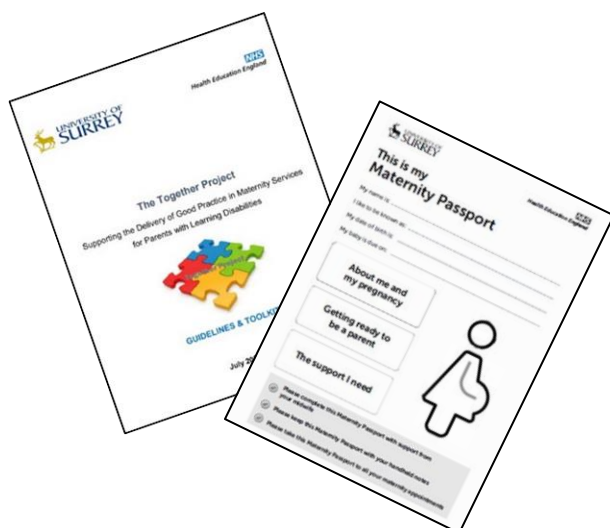
April 2023

What is this report about?



This report is about the Together Project. This project aimed to help maternity staff to support people with learning disabilities when they are expecting a baby.

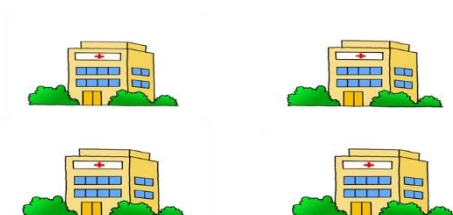
Why did we do this project?



In Part 1 of the Together Project, we co-produced the Together Toolkit (for midwives) and the Maternity Passport (for people with learning disabilities).

In part 2 of the project, we wanted to find out if these resources were helpful.

What did we do?



Four NHS Trusts in the South of England used the Together Project resources.



We spoke to 17 midwives and 6 people with learning disabilities. We asked them if the resources were helpful and how we could make them better.

What did we find?



Midwives and parents with learning disabilities said that the Together Project resources were helpful in improving maternity care.



Midwives said that they would like more time, more learning disability awareness training, and support from learning disability specialists to help them use the Together Project resources.



Parents with learning disabilities wanted to use the Maternity Passport, but sometimes they forgot to take it with them to appointments.



What will we do next?



Midwives and parents with learning disabilities told us how to make the resources even better. They are now more colourful. The Maternity Passport has been changed so that it can be used by anyone who would find it helpful.

We are making a film to help midwives find out if someone they are supporting has learning disabilities.

We are working with people with learning disabilities to make learning disability awareness training for student midwives. People with learning disabilities will deliver the training to students at the University of Surrey.

Who worked on this project?



The report was written by a team of researchers from the University of Surrey, they were led by:

Dr Anna Cox (a.cox@surrey.ac.uk)



An expert by experience, Scott Watkin, has worked on the Together Project since it started in 2019.

Who else helped to make this project a success?



People with learning disabilities from The Elfrida Society Parents Project helped with this project, as well as health and social care staff.


Health Education England

NIHR | Applied Research Collaboration
Kent, Surrey and Sussex

Health Education England and the National Institute for Health and Care Research funded this project.

Glossary

Maternity care: The health care provided to pregnant people, babies, and their families during pregnancy, childbirth and the first six weeks of a baby's life.

Midwife: A professional who is trained to support women when they are pregnant, in childbirth, and the first six weeks after the baby is born.

Learning disability specialist: Someone who is trained to support people with learning disabilities (for example, a learning disability nurse).
