Bowel Screening in People with Learning Disabilites

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Problem

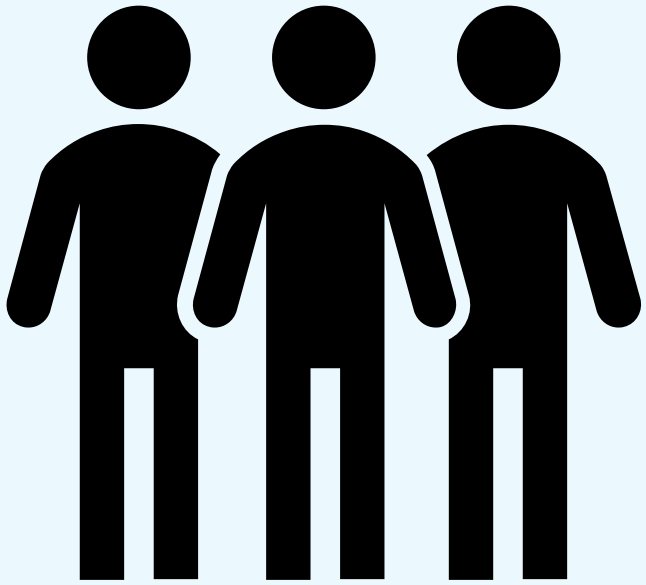
In the UK, people with learning disabilites receive bowel screening at rates significantly lower than the general population (66.8% vs. 50.3% in 2021-2022, NHS Digital 2022).

This is in spite of a population-based screening programme delivered by NHS England.

There have been some proposed interventions, but they tend to be local in scope and aren't necessarily co-produced with people with learning disabilities.

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Community-Based Partner



- I have been working with a local, voluntary-sector service provider since 2023 (2.5 years).
- The self-advocates at this organization have experience developing videos on health topics.
- In 2024, I received university-based funding to co-produce a video on bowel screening, to increase awareness of the need for and purpose of bowel screening among people with learning disabilities.

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Proposed Project



Alongside self-advocates from the local community-based organization, co-produce an educational intervention to promote understanding of bowel screening among their peers with learning disabilities across a wider geographic area.



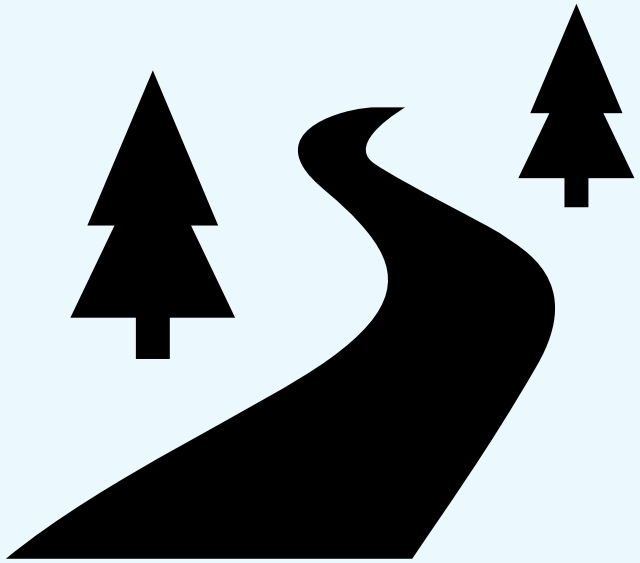
It would be a train the trainer approach, supporting self-advocates at partner organizations to become Bowel Screening Champions.



These Champions would then share the workshops and associated materials with other groups in their network.

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Next steps for project



- I applied for a NIHR (National Institutes for Health Research) Public Health Research Bid in August 2025, which was ultimately unsuccessful.
- Key questions I would like feedback on about this idea, to develop it for a different funding opportunity:
  - How can I provide sufficient detail about the proposed intervention in the funding application while at the same time allowing for the co-production of the intervention with self-advocates with lived experience with ID?
  - How can I scale up this project from a single service user group to a wider regional/national/multi-country impact?
  - How can I evidence impact of the intervention (i.e. outcome variables) and are these data either readily available or I can collect these data within the scope of the project?

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Thank you for your time!

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