

The impact of COVID-19 on d/Deaf and Disabled people – Shaping Our Lives reports

In June this year, Shaping Our Lives was awarded a grant by the National Lottery Community Fund to carry out and complete research into the impacts of COVID-19 and national and regional lockdowns on d/Deaf and Disabled people, Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations (DDPOs) and patient groups.

Following our research, we are pleased to bring you 4 reports, based on our research, each with a different focus. Please read below for further details and for a link to each report (available in pdf and word) via our website.

Behind Closed Doors - Report from our Independent Living COVID-19 project

<https://www.shapingourlives.org.uk/resources/our-resources/research-reports/behind-closed-doors-report-from-our-impacts-of-covid-19-project>

This report details findings from a survey about the longer term impacts of COVID-19, and resulting lockdown measures, on independent living for d/Deaf and Disabled people.

This study developed out of conversations with our members, who told us that both the pandemic and the resulting lockdown measures had substantial impacts on their abilities to independently live their day-to-day lives. Our members told us that they were not sure how and when their confidence and independence would return; some members told us they were not even sure if they would regain the levels of confidence and independence that they enjoyed before the pandemic.

Locked In or Locked Out – Experiences of using regarding remote technology during COVID-19.

<https://www.shapingourlives.org.uk/resources/our-resources/research-reports/locked-in-or-locked-out-report-from-our-covid-19-remote-technology-research-project>

This report details findings from a survey about the use of remote technology by d/Deaf and Disabled people during, and beyond, the first national COVID-19 lockdown, which lasted from March 20 until early July. The study developed out of conversations with our members, who told us that they were concerned about the sudden adoption of remote technologies for a wide range of activities.

Whilst the report finds that there are lots of positives to using remote technology, it is clear that it also presents a variety of concerns. For example, more training needs to be made available for d/Deaf and Disabled people who are required to use these new remote technologies. Guidelines for inclusive practices should be implemented for all types of remote technologies, and standards for using remote technologies should be applied to all interactions, in the same way that certain behaviours are adopted for face-to-face meetings.

Engaged or Ignored? - Reflections from Patient Participation Groups about the Impact of COVID-19

<https://www.shapingourlives.org.uk/resources/our-resources/research-reports/engaged-or-ignored-reflections-from-patient-participation-groups-about-the-impact-of-covid-19>

This report reflects on experiences of five people who before lockdown started were members of patient groups. We carried out these interviews online in October and November 2020 and the report is an edit of transcripts and recordings. The interviewees were given the opportunity to review and amend the draft report.

It provides a snapshot of how five localities (and one national body) involved patients during 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold in the UK. It gives a flavour of what went well and what was more challenging from the patient perspective.

In the report, we have provided examples which could help other patient participation bodies and NHS engagement teams.

Crisis, Challenge and Change - Reflections from DDPOs regarding the impact of COVID-19

<https://www.shapingourlives.org.uk/resources/our-resources/research-reports/crisis-challenge-and-change-reflections-from-ddpos-regarding-the-impact-of-covid-19>

DDPOs are not-for-profit organisations which are user led, run by and for Deaf and Disabled people. They provide a range of peer-led accessible services that support Disabled people to access services and entitlements, challenge discrimination and exclusion and have choice, control and independence.

This report reflects on the experiences of 20 DDPOs all working in England, in over 20 different local authority areas from early March until late September 2020 as they responded to working during the COVID-19 pandemic and provides some key actions.