

Involving people who are less socially connected in research

Learning from and impact of Public Involvement

Valuing the outcomes of social connections for use in economic evaluation



IMPACT: Public Contributors and Stakeholder experiences helped in identifying how to engage people who are typically disengaged from social situations in research. Involving community groups working with people experiencing loneliness and poor social connection was integral.

IMPACT: Public contributors highlighted the emotive nature of research topics addressing loneliness. This reframed how the researchers approached conversations around loneliness and isolation, accounting for the sensitive nature of the topic.

IMPACT: Community organisation stakeholders helped map the funding landscape and decision-making process, which was crucial to ensuring the economic and valuation methods developed would be applicable in practice.

LEARNING: Many public contributors had little prior experience of research. This was a huge asset as it provided a real world lens about how people would view the project when first introduced to it. This improved the language and accessibility of the project.



"The reason I want to take part in the research for NIHR, is because I feel it is very unique actually. And I feel we need to raise awareness for people like myself, who are not just ageing without children, but who are alone in communities and in society. We need to reach out to them. We need to make other people aware that there are people like this, like me, like them, in their community who don't have a voice. And we need a voice. And that, community can be our voice. So we need the research." **Public Contributor**