

## People's Voice Project Background Information

### Where did the project start?



This project started in 2021. There is a pot of money that community organisations can apply to get money from. This pot is called the Bristol Impact Fund run by Bristol City Council.



No organisations led by people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities applied for the funding as there weren't any groups in Bristol who were run by people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities.

To develop this sort of group, Bristol City Council held back some money to go towards creating a group like this.



A Steering Group was put together to decide what to do. A Steering Group is a meeting where members use their experience, skills and knowledge to help make decisions.

Disabled people from across Bristol were invited to join the Steering Group to decide how to form the group.



This group decided that they needed to employ three people with learning difficulties and disabilities to design the project for themselves.

## What has the project done?



Beth, R and Edwin were hired to design the project and carry out research with the Disabled people community in Bristol.

They spent the first few months working with the National Development Team for Inclusion along with a support worker to plan out the research.



They went through ethics, did independent work, and learnt about research methods they could use.

In January 2023, they launched an online survey which had about 60 responses.



They began running focus groups and spoke to seven community groups during February and March 2023.

At the same time, an interest group was created for people to join the project. An interest group is a group of people who meet to talk about a common interest or issue. This interest group has now had three sessions.



In March and April, Beth R and Edwin looked at the results of the findings and made a video about them. They also created a rap poem.



This video was shown at an event where between sixty to seventy people attended and there was a discussion on what type of group was wanted.

## What is the project trying to do?



The project so far has been trying to find out what the key issues are for people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities in Bristol and whether they would want to run a group themselves.

The aim of the project is to:



1. Bring people together
2. To create a louder voice for the community in Bristol



3. To create a group, organisation or space led by the community
4. To make a change and have an impact

**This project has been going for two years and whilst the research project has found out people want a group (among other things), there needs to be more discussion and development with the community about what type of group it will be.**

**This can be done with further development by a new organisation.**