



**drill**  
Disability Research on  
Independent Living & Learning



**COMMUNITY  
FUND**

# DRILL Programme: Impact Report

## IMPACT REPORT

November 2020

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# Introduction and Background

# Introduction and Background

## 1.1 Introduction

This document sets out an evaluation impact report for Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning (DRILL), a programme funded by The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF) under the Research for Impact: Disabled People funding programme. DRILL was managed and delivered by a Four Nation Partnership of Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs). Project partners include:



**Disability Action** works to ensure that people with disabilities attain their full rights as citizens, by supporting inclusion, influencing Government policy and changing attitudes in partnership with disabled people. Disability Action is the lead partner and delivers DRILL in Northern Ireland.



**Disability Rights UK** disabled people leading change, working to create a society where everyone with lived experience of disability or health conditions can participate equally as full citizens. It delivers DRILL in England.



**Disability Wales** championing the rights, equality and independent living of all disabled people regardless of physical or sensory impairment, learning difficulty or mental health condition. They recognise that disabled people have many identities and can face intersectional discrimination. Disability Wales delivers DRILL in Wales.



**Inclusion Scotland** is a consortium of organisations of disabled people and disabled individuals. Through a process of structured development, they aim to draw attention to the physical, social, economic, cultural and attitudinal barriers that affect our everyday lives as disabled people in Scotland. Inclusion Scotland delivers DRILL in Scotland.

## 1.2 TNLCF Research for Impact: Disabled People

The Research for Impact: Disabled People (RFI: Disabled People) programme was developed by TNLCF in recognition of the distinct lack of evidence available from the perspective of disabled people about how they could be enabled to live independently and make their voices heard.

The overall programme aim is:

*To build better evidence about approaches to enable disabled people to live independently, which is used to inform future policy and service provision, as well as give a greater voice to disabled people in decisions which affect them.*

RFI Disabled People programme outcomes are as follows:

- Building on existing knowledge, new knowledge is developed about the key issues experienced by disabled people, and ways to support their independence and make their voices heard.
- Research findings are used to inform policy and practice impacting upon disabled people at a local, regional, national and cross-national level.
- Disabled people have greater opportunities for independent living and are better able to challenge public perceptions, as a result of research findings.

The programme had a budget of £5 million. Following an open application call, TNLCF issued a letter of offer to Disability Action and project partners to deliver the DRILL Programme across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

### 1.3 DRILL Background and Concept

DRILL is a five-year programme developed by the Four Nation partners. It is the culmination of discussions over a number of years about the potential for the four partners to have a collective impact on independent living outcomes for and with disabled people across the UK.

The evolution of DRILL from a concept to a full proposal and application to TNLCF Fund involved consultation with approximately 100 disability sector organisations, 40 academics and key disability sector stakeholders as well as strategic planning activities between the four partner organisations.

The rationale for DRILL was a lack of available research about the approaches and barriers to enable independent living, thus the potential for evidence-based policy making was inhibited. DRILL would fill this space by becoming the first research programme to be driven by Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) and where disabled people were involved in the design, management and delivery of research projects.

DRILL was designed to act as the fulcrum between disabled people, academics and policy makers, providing opportunities for collaboration on research and pilot projects. A central tenet of this collaboration was that co-production would form a key component of research design and methodology.

Subsequently, DRILL was viewed as an opportunity to: build the evidence base within the disability sector about independent living, to empower disabled people and organisations within the disability sector, to collaborate and share learning and to build the capacity of disabled people and the disability sector to influence decision making and policy on independent living.

## 1.4 DRILL Programme Outcomes

Four outcomes were identified for DRILL by the partners during the application process, they are:

- Disabled people have increased knowledge about key issues and new evidence of what works, enabling them to live independently and fulfil their potential.
- Positive influence on policy making and service provision in relation to supporting disabled people to live independently, through the availability of robust set of research findings.
- Disabled people experience improved wellbeing, independent living, choice and control through participating in or engaging with DRILL.
- Disabled people are empowered and have directly influenced decisions about services that affect them.

Outcomes and indicators for DRILL have been presented in Appendix 1.

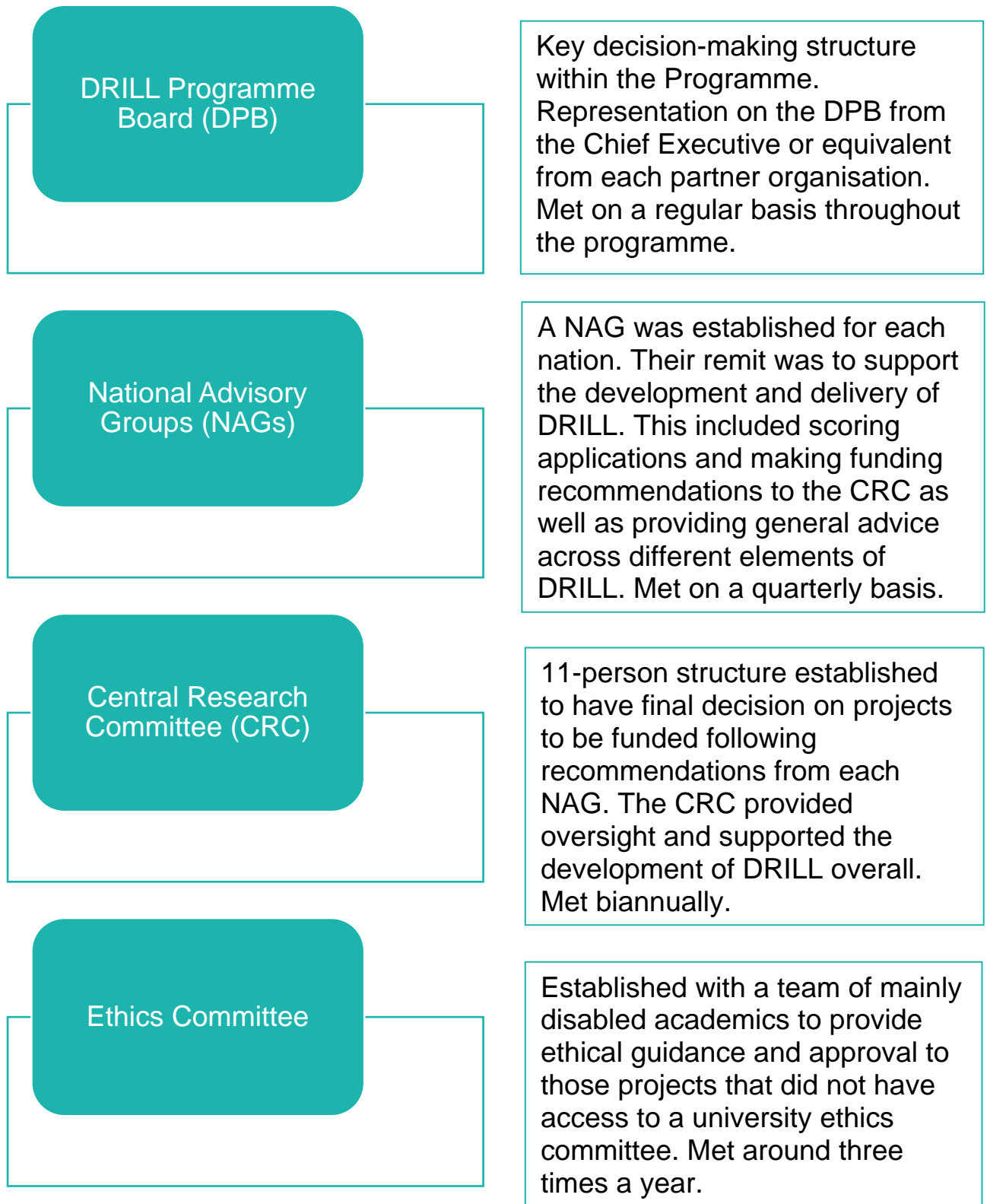
## 1.5 DRILL Programme Structure

On receipt of funding, the DRILL partners set about the process of establishing a management and operational structure to deliver the programme, this included the effective and efficient distribution of funding for research and pilot projects in keeping with the ethos of DRILL and in line with programme outcomes.

Disability Action as lead partner, had ultimate legal responsibility for delivery and fulfilment of the commitments outlined in the letter of offer.

A DRILL Programme Board (DPB) was established as the overarching strategic decision-making mechanism within the programme, with CEO level representation from each of the partners.

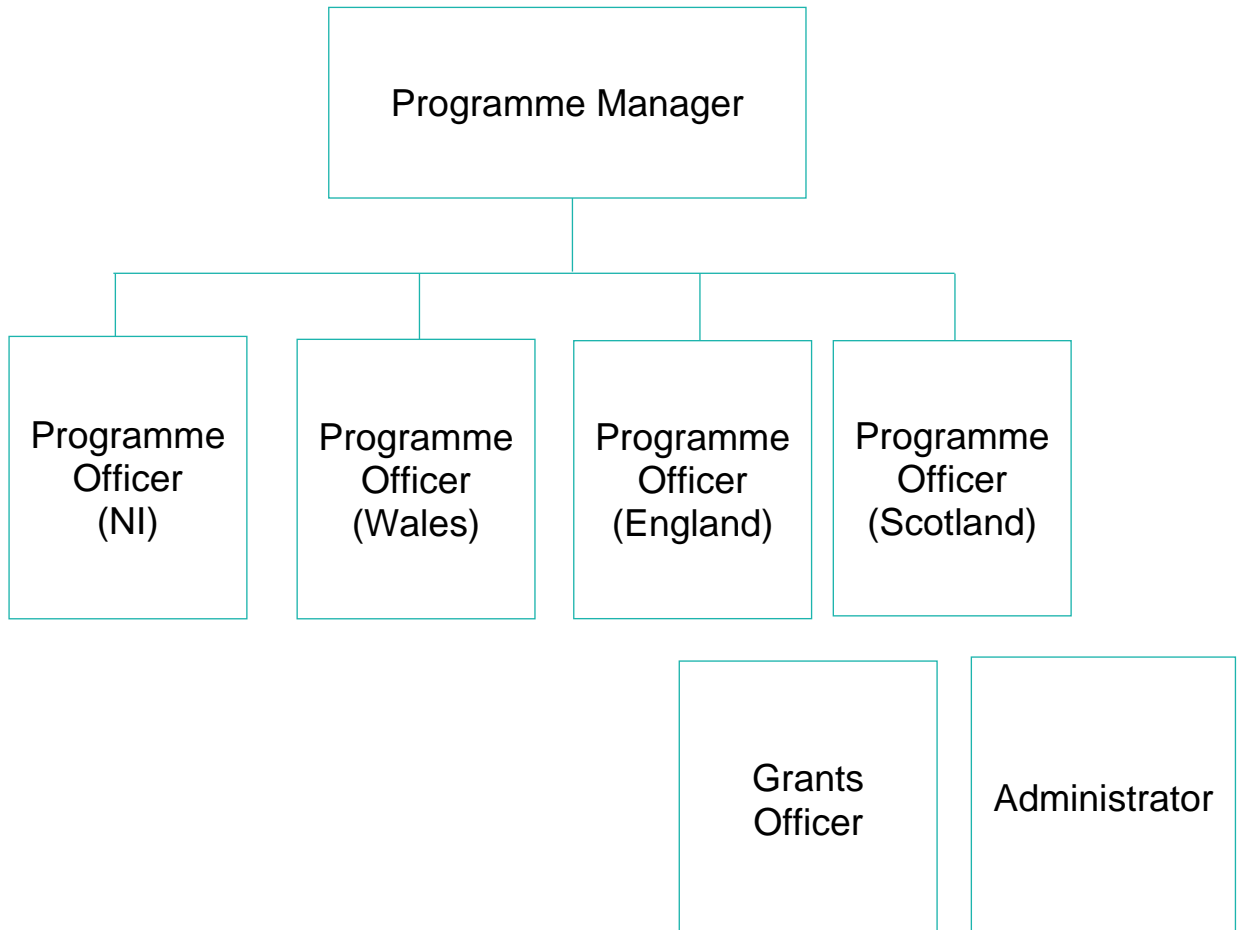
Several additional structures were established to assist with the management and oversight of the programme, as well as ensuring the integrity and quality of programme outputs, these are as follows:





## 1.6 Operational and Staff Structure

The Programme Manager reported directly to the DPB. The operational structure agreed and implemented for DRILL is presented below:



A need for additional expertise and resources was identified during the interim evaluation of the programme in mid-2018. This resulted in the recruitment of the following additional staff roles:

- Impact Officer
- Communications Consultant

An overview of each of the staff roles is detailed below:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Details</b>
Programme Manager	Responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the DRILL Programme, reporting to the Chief Executive of Disability Action, the DPB and TNLCF. The role included line management of the staff team, establishment and co-ordination of NAG, CRC and Ethics Committee, delivery of application and assessment process and monitoring of projects.
Programme Officer	The Programme Officers were responsible for supporting the delivery of the grant application and assessment process along with ongoing support and monitoring of funded projects.
Grants Officer	This role focussed on the management of finance and grant agreements with funded projects. The postholder was responsible for co-ordinating with the Programme Officer team to ensure each project fulfilled grant agreement requirements.
Administrator	This role supported the functions across the Programme Team, responsible for all administrative tasks to ensure the effective delivery of DRILL.
Impact Officer	Established to support data collection relating to outcomes and impact from the funded projects.
Communications Consultant	This was a contracted role designed to support the marketing and communication of DRILL, distribution of online and print media content and programme PR.

# Evaluation Process

# Evaluation Process

## 2.1 Introduction

Disability Action on behalf of the DRILL partners commissioned S3 Solutions to complete an independent evaluation of DRILL. The terms of reference set out the following key objectives for the evaluation.

- Establish baselines (where necessary) and the framework and processes to capture and document progress against achieving the four outcomes as agreed with TNLCF;
- Providing DRILL grantees with tools for assessing the planning, implementation and self-evaluation of their project funded by the DRILL Grants Programme;
- Work with the DRILL Programme Manager and Officers and develop their expertise and ability to provide practical project evaluation support consistently across the DRILL Programme to grant holders;
- Work with the DRILL Programme Manager and advise on the preparation of the mid – term evaluation and the final evaluation;
- Take a formative role with the DRILL Programme Board throughout the Programme, enabling the Board to proactively identify strengths and weaknesses and implement changes as required;
- Work with the DRILL Programme Board to determine and validate the following: (i) to what extent has the DRILL Programme achieved its intended outcomes and what contribution has it made to the Research for Impact outcomes (ii) what are the legacy and the sustainable benefits / impact of the DRILL Programme; (iii) what extent or reach has the DRILL Programme achieved in relation to influencing policy and / or practice.

In the early stages of the evaluation, S3 Solutions liaised with the DRILL Programme Manager and staff representatives to help develop and refine:

- A monitoring form aligned to the outcomes and indicators for the programme – this would be completed by funded projects to report on their outputs and outcomes.
- An evaluation and consultation framework to inform data collection. This would set out how projects and stakeholders would be engaged to contribute to the evaluation process.

Given the nature and scale of the project and the level of resource allocated to evaluation, the evaluation methodology was highly reliant on data collection by the individual funded projects, supported by DRILL programme staff.

## 2.2 Data Collection

This final evaluation report has been informed by the following:

- Contributions from 31 funded projects were received through quarterly and final project monitoring forms as well as 14 semi structured interviews carried out by telephone.
- Contributions from 34 representatives of the NAG, CRC and Ethics Committees were received through online survey and semi structured interviews.
- Contributions from all DRILL Programme Board members through semi structured interviews at interim and final evaluation.
- Observations and structured literature review of articles, blogs, web-based discussions and interviews that were carried out by projects and their participants.
- High level review of the research findings and reports produced by projects.

## 2.3 Data Analysis

Qualitative data analysis was conducted using both thematic and narrative approaches. Data from monitoring forms, semi structured interviews and surveys was cross tabulated in order to identify emergent

themes and issues and to explore the relationships between issues. The researchers adopted an inductive approach, focused on wide ranging engagements with key stakeholders to build an abstraction and describe the key concepts relating to independent living, co-production, changes to policy and wider experiences of the DRILL programme. Sampling and data collection continued until no new conceptual insights were generated and the evaluator felt they had gathered repeated evidence for the thematic analysis, thus reaching theoretical saturation.

## 2.4 Interim Evaluation

An interim evaluation was carried out in mid-2018. At that point, all of the funding had been allocated to 32 projects and thus much of the feedback relating to processes and structures in 2018, is relevant to the final evaluation and has therefore been incorporated to this report.

## 2.5 Limitations

A number of limitations are identified:

- *Resource limitations* – the evaluation resources did not allow for the evaluation of the 32 individual projects but rather focussed on the overall programme. To this end, additional resources were deployed by DRILL through the appointment of an Impact Officer for the final 2 years of the programme. This role was designed to liaise with individual projects to assist with data collection on outcomes and impact.
- *Secondary data* – the report has a heavy reliance on secondary data from funded projects. This information is important and valuable and complements primary data from DRILL stakeholders. Additional primary data directly from disabled people would have further reinforced key findings and learning. The availability of resources restricted this.
- *Reliance on projects for data collection* – the potential to report on all of the programme indicators was reliant on the funded projects gathering data from participants. The nature of the projects meant that some of the indicators were not as relevant as others (for

example, in many projects, a disabled persons only interaction was to participate in a semi structured interview or survey, thus it is difficult to assign outcomes to this activity). In addition, projects reported a significant underestimation in terms of time allocated to co-production and partnership working, thus inhibiting data collection for evaluation purposes. The lack of complete datasets against some of the individual level indicators means that the evaluation cannot report on all. This is reflected in section 6.

- *Timescale for impact* – DRILL seeks to achieve change in policy and practice across the disability sector and Government at UK and devolved region level. The timescale within which these changes may occur is likely to extend beyond the lifespan of the actual programme and this evaluation, thus it cannot be fully measured and reported now.
- *COVID-19 pandemic* – as activity came to a close within DRILL, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic created a significant barrier to data collection. A series of reflective discussions, information sharing, networking and celebration events had been planned which were subsequently cancelled in line with government guidelines, thus reducing the availability of evaluation data.

These limitations and challenges are considered further in Sections 5 and 6 of the report.

# DRILL Delivery



## DRILL Delivery

### 3.1 Introduction

This section of the report presents a summary of the key outputs alongside a descriptive summary of the various application processes and relevant data.

### 3.2 DRILL Applications: Key Facts

561

Number of people that participated in road show events promoting DRILL at the outset

316

Total number of applications received across Fast Track, Call 1 and 2

£26 million

Total funding request from the application processes

32

Number of research and pilot projects funded

£2,985,371

Total amount of funding distributed for research and pilot projects

DRILL was formally launched by project partners in October 2015. During the period October to December 2015, road show events were held to engage with disabled people, academics and other stakeholders that may have an interest in the programme. Nine road show events were held in England, five events in Northern Ireland, four events in Scotland and three events held in Wales. A total of 561 people attended the events. The feedback received helped to shape the structure of the application process and the themes under which applications would be considered. The themes agreed for applications were as follows:

- Participating in the economy
- Participating in public and civic life
- Participating in the community and social life
- Participating in anything

In the application process, organisations were expected to highlight how their proposed research or pilot projects aligned to one or more of the themes. A number of 'application calls' were agreed by the DRILL programme board, then organised and delivered by the DRILL Programme Team.

### **3.1.1 DRILL 1<sup>st</sup> Call**

The first Call for applications was formally announced on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and ran until 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016. A specific one stage Fast Track application process was developed following feedback from the road show events. There were two clear differences between the Fast Track and main programme applications, these included:

1. Main programme applications could be for projects of up to £150,000 in value, compared to £40,000 for Fast Track applications.
2. Main programme applications would be subject to a 2-stage application process.

A total of 69 fast track applications were received with ten projects funded.

Of the ten projects funded within the fast-track process, five were located in England, two in Scotland, two in Wales and one in Northern Ireland. All ten were research projects. A total investment of £392,935 was committed in this application call.

A total of 138 main programme applications for funding were received in the first call with 11 projects funded. Of the projects funded, six were located in England, one in Wales, three in Scotland and one in Northern Ireland. Nine research projects and two pilot projects were funded during this call, representing an investment of £1,064,565.

### 3.1.2 DRILL 2<sup>nd</sup> Call

The second call for applications opened on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and ran until 8<sup>th</sup> August 2017. A total of 106 applications for funding were received with a funding request of over £9 million. Ten projects were funded.

Of the ten projects funded, five were located in England, one in Scotland, one in Wales and three in Northern Ireland. Four research projects and six pilot projects were funded during this call, representing an investment of £1,148,858.

*A list of all of the projects funded within the Fast-Track process, first and second calls, has been provided in Appendix 2.*

### 3.1.3 Four Nations Research

The original application by programme partners included a proposal to carry out a significant piece of research on a Four Nation basis. The focus of this research emerged organically through ongoing consultations with the funded projects, their partners and the DRILL Programme stakeholders. Applications were made by each of the partners to complete a piece of research up to the value of £40,000 each. Applications were subject to an assessment process and funding of £180,000 was agreed following CRC and Ethics Committee approval. This figure included a management fee for Inclusion Scotland to act as

lead partner for the research. A case study describing this Four Nation research is set out in section five.

### 3.3 Summary of Funded Projects

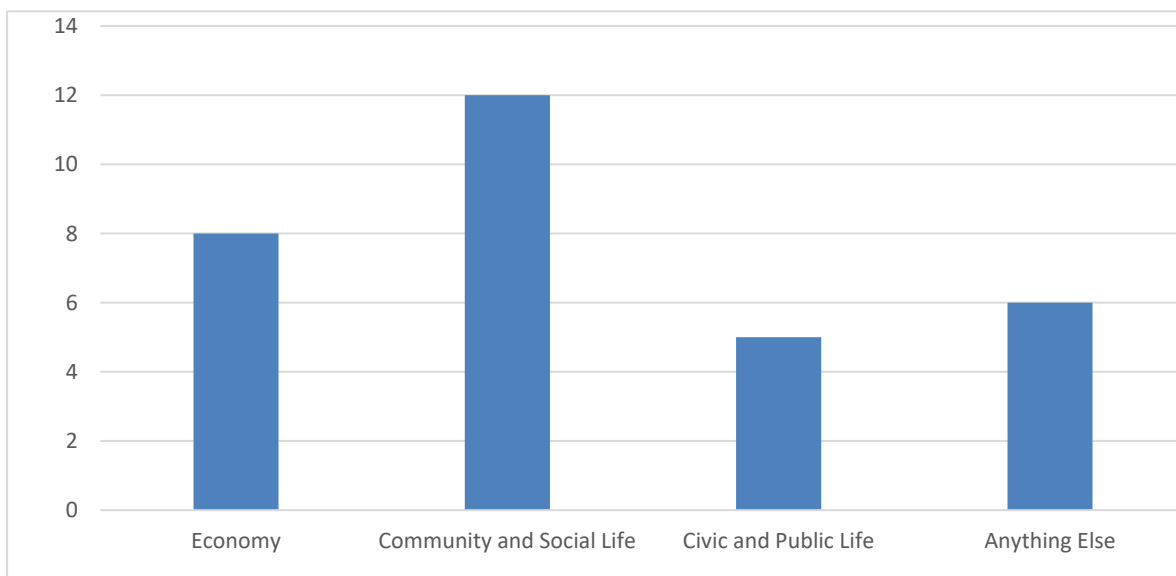
Overall, 32 projects were funded representing an investment of £2,985,371. The DRILL Programme Team prepared an analysis of funded projects under the following headings:

- Geography and financial breakdown per nation
- Theme
- Impairment
- Lead organisation type

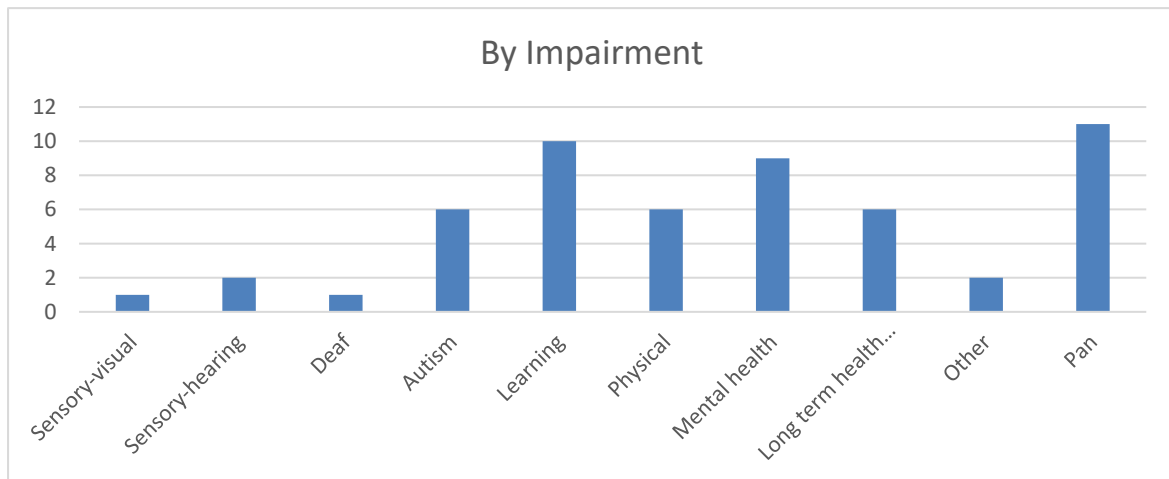
#### 3.2.1 Projects by Geography and Financial Breakdown

Nation	Total Spend	Percent of Spend	Percent of UK Population
Scotland	£445,473.80	17.1%	8.3%
England	£1,264,854.68	48.5%	84.1%
Wales	£317,976.89	12.2%	4.8%
NI	£578,054.02	22.2%	2.8%

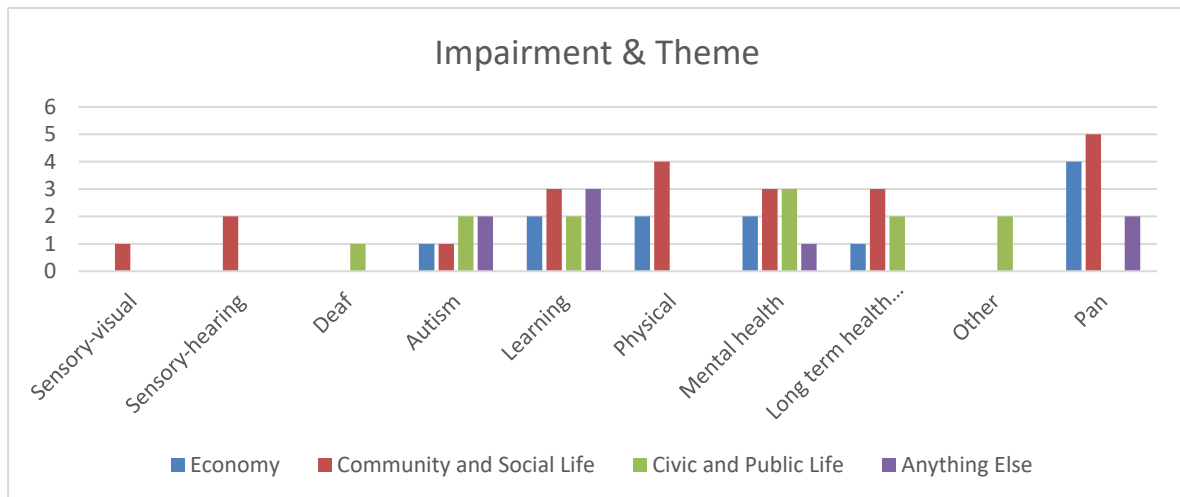
#### 3.2.2 Projects by Theme



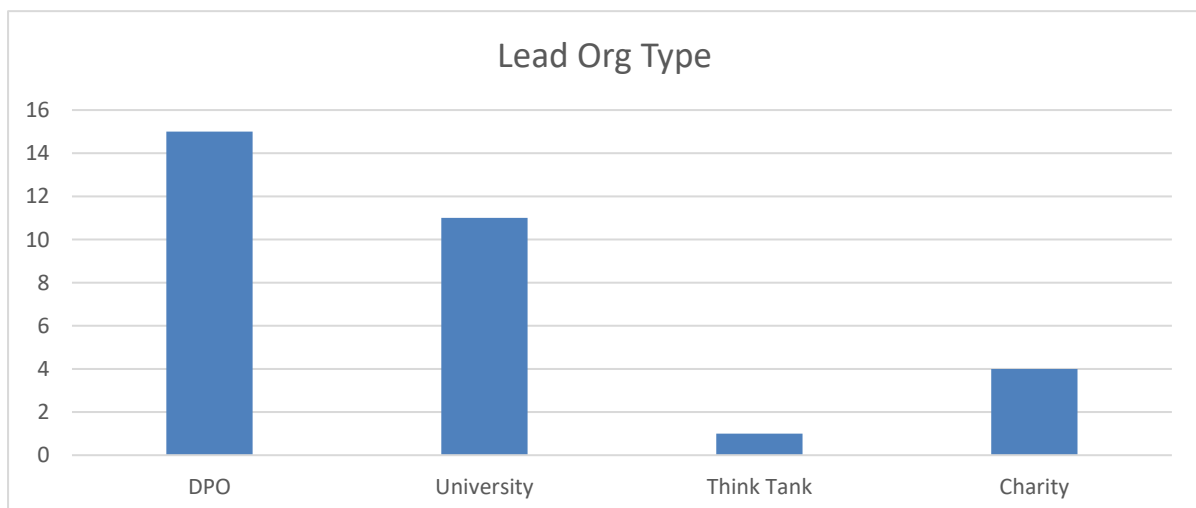
### 3.2.3 Breakdown of Projects by Impairment



### 3.2.4 Breakdown of Project by Impairment and Theme



### 3.2.5 Breakdown of Projects by Lead Organisation Type



# DRILL Impact

## DRILL Impact

### 4.1 Headline Findings

This section sets out an overview of the perceived impact of DRILL according to the projects it funded. The information presented in this section is derived from the project monitoring forms and from semi structured interviews with project representatives, it includes both quantitative output data, as well as qualitative feedback.

# 4,856

Total number of people that participated in DRILL projects

*‘There is such a sense of feeling valued and feeling heard being part of research like this’ (project participant)*

# 313

Disabled people completing leadership roles within projects

22 of 32 projects have had at least 5 disabled people in a leadership role. Leadership roles included: staff members, researchers, peer researchers, volunteers and steering group members

*“We have noticed a huge amount of personal development within the research team; with 2 peer researchers gaining further research employment, and at least 3 wanting to explore research roles further” (project representative)*



85 organisations were involved in projects as partners

76%

Of projects indicated that DRILL has helped them to attract new service users or people who want to work with their organisation

62%

Of projects indicated that DRILL has helped them to develop new or refine current services

76%

Of projects indicated that DRILL has increased their ability to influence change

38%

Of projects indicated that DRILL has helped them to secure new funding

£310,000

Estimated in kind contribution to deliver projects



## 4.2 Feedback from Projects

The section sets out qualitative findings from semi structured interviews with project representatives, complemented by qualitative information captured in project monitoring forms. The findings are representative of 32 projects and are grouped thematically to capture the perceived impact of DRILL. The thematic headings include:

- Impact for disabled people
- Co-production
- Impact on policy
- Impact on practice
- Partnership working

### 4.2.1 *Impact for Disabled People*

DRILL achieved a significant level of participation from disabled people, 4,856 disabled people participated overall, and 313 disabled people fulfilled leadership roles across all funded projects. Those consulted consistently referenced three outcomes that they felt were most prominent with disabled people, these include:

- Increased sense of feeling valued.
- Increased feeling of empowerment
- Increased confidence

The role of co-production was identified as crucial in generating these positive impacts, this was referenced by almost all of the projects. The strong involvement of people with lived experience was a consistent feature of the feedback, many reported high levels of involvement of disabled people from the design stage through to analysis and final report.

Contributing to research on relevant issues and involvement in the development, design and delivery of research were key in contributing to positive outcomes for participants. This involvement led to increased

sense of feeling valued and empowered, and this is considered an overwhelmingly positive element of the programme.

Across the funded projects, disabled people took on many different types of leadership roles. These included: participating on advisory groups, peer researchers, research assistants, research leads and project advocates. Some of the qualitative statements highlighting this point are detailed below:

- *'The report was delivered by a disabled person.'* (Project representative)
- *'Key to the success has been that disabled people were involved in the design of the consultation.'* (Project representative)
- *'Advisory group with lived experience was established at the heart of it all.'* (Project representative)
- *'They (people with lived experience) loved being involved in the process and the contribution was invaluable.'* (Project representative)

### **Example – People First Scotland**

Based on pre and post project engagement with participants, the following information has been compiled:

- 58% of participants indicated that they feel more confident about independent living and decision making after taking part.
- 56% of participants indicated that after taking part they would like to be more involved in the planning and delivery of services they receive.
- 63% of participants indicated they feel they understand and know more about independent living and decision making after taking part.

Quotes from project steering group participants:

*“This kind of research makes people think differently about us. People can see that we have a voice.”*

*“Some of us did not know what research was before we started. Many people did not know what decision-making was. The research has been a way for a lot of people to learn more and understand different things.”*

This feedback is indicative of view from project representatives and the statements provide a sense of the level of involvement of disabled people across funded projects, and the subsequent impact.

Several notable outcomes were achieved for those participants in leadership roles. This included securing new employment positions as a result of training, personal development and capacity building outcomes and accessing new opportunities as a result of exposure to new networks. Some examples included:

- *‘Employing a group of disabled researchers with non-traditional qualifications as researchers was a new experience for the University of Glasgow. We should try to encourage it to do this more frequently.’ (Project representative)*
- *‘Two of the co researchers went onto get paid research jobs. Another two went on to get paid employment.’ (Project representative)*
- *‘15 peer researchers participated in the project – 5 have found employment as a direct result of their research work’ (project representative)*

### Example - University of Lincoln

DRILL research informed a proposal to secure funding and purchase of extensive 3D printing equipment which would revolutionise the inclusion of disabled students in areas such as design & architecture. Increased wellbeing and confidence for peer researchers and participants within the project was noted in the project evaluation.

*One direct impact from the project was the progression of a volunteer member of the project advisory group, to become a curator for art installations for visually impaired people. This was attributed to increased confidence gained through Co-production and opportunities resulting from the project.*

#### 4.2.2 Co-production

The feedback below reflects a consistent view from projects in terms of co-production:

- *Co-production worked well. We had planned for full co-production and generally it went to plan.’ (Project representative)*
- *‘Co-production on this project was first class, project users involved from the outset in design and delivery.’ (Project representative)*
- *‘The Research Centre will use the learning from this project to promote co-production further within the University.’ (Project representative)*

*‘Co-production was already an important aspect of NDTI’s work. However, this research project is one of the only ones where it has been genuine co-production from the very earliest stages. MLMC were very much involved with shaping the idea and the approach for this work. They then worked on every aspect of the project, from data collection to analysis and dissemination.’ (Project representative)*

The positive feedback reflects a collective sense that co-production has been a critical success factor for DRILL.

*'It (co-production) has demonstrated that research can be done in a truly co-produced way. It is often a challenge to involve experts by experience at the planning stage as there is no funding for their time. But this project has demonstrated the value of working together from the very start.'*  
(Project representative)

The findings also suggest that organisations and partners will continue to embrace co-production as a result of their involvement in DRILL:

- *'Co-production is now embedded within our practice.'* (Project representative)
- *'We have undertaken co-production before and will again on other projects.'* (Project representative)

Those consulted reflected on the need to build on enhanced levels of co-production which many described as a considerable improvement from previous experiences of 'tokenism', essentially referring to disabled people being used as part of bids or processes but not really having a meaningful role in completing research or projects.

- *'The Advisory Group was involved in the report structure and launch, this was not tokenism.'* (Project representative)
- *'All too often we get a call or email asking us to partner in a bid on the day before its due, that is not real partnership or empowerment.'* (Project representative)
- *'This (co-production) helped to guide the process from a lived experience perspective.'* (Project representative)
- *'The main practical output was co-produced through discussions with around 30 people with SCD at two policy development*

*workshops and co-written with two people living with SCD.'*  
(Project representative)

### 4.2.3 Impact on Policy

It was consistently the view of those consulted that the enhanced evidence base derived from research or pilot projects, has created a platform to bring about change in terms of current or future policy at local, regional or national government level. This was viewed as a key impact of DRILL. Those consulted reflected on an increased confidence resulting from having access to evidence that describes and articulates the key issues affecting disabled people. This has profoundly increased optimism amongst funded projects that change can be achieved.

*76% of projects felt that their project has enhanced their ability to influence change.*

An increased confidence to engage with policy makers to lobby, respond to relevant government consultations and advocate on behalf of disabled people was referenced consistently by projects. Examples of include:

- *'The project gave us an authority to state what the situation is in schools because we have the evidence.'* (Project representative)
- *'It (completing research) has created a new platform for lobbying.'* (Project representative)
- *'We have used the evidence base to submit several consultations responses.'* (Project representative)
- *'The research completed assists us in terms of responding to Government consultations etc.'* (project representative)

There were limited tangible examples of policy changes attributed directly to DRILL projects at the time of report, however there was a broad acknowledgement that new opportunities for networking, lobbying and engagement have developed. Across the projects, there are

examples of launch events, presentations to House of Commons Committees and regional government committees, presentations to Government Ministers with a direct responsibility for policy and senior civil servants.

This has, according to projects, created the impetus for future influence and impact on policy.

There was an acknowledgement that it was too early to measure the true extent of policy change achieved by DRILL. Policy change takes sustained time and effort (and can be influenced by the wider political agenda and climate), but the key overarching feedback suggests that organisations now feel more confident and empowered to have the necessary conversations and to advocate for change to people in positions of power and influence.

Projects also reflected disabled people that were now ‘in the room’ and in many cases leading conversations. It was felt that in terms of increased empowerment and optimism to deliver change, a high level of causality can be attributed to DRILL.

#### 4.2.4 Impact on Practice

Those consulted frequently referred to internal and external changes to service delivery as a result of DRILL. Collaborations and research have created new insights and promoted better practice as the feedback suggests:

- *‘We have created not just another “service” but a “community” in which everything cares “about” each other – rather than the “service” caring “for” its clients’ (project representative)*

Numerous organisations reflected that the legacy of their respective project is a fostering of new cultures within organisations, which is influencing how services, resources and organisations evolve.

- *'The advisory group was set up through the project is still going.'* (Project representative)
- *62% have indicated that as a result of their DRILL funded project, they have developed new or refined current services.*

The following feedback suggests greater connectivity between disabled people and key stakeholders as a result of the process:

- *'Bridges built between deaf people and the judiciary. Judges took part in the process – changes of practice evident.'* (Project representative)
- *'Working with the police and crime commissioner for Gwent on the relationship between bullying and hate crime and having him retain contact with the co researchers and partner organisation after the project ended.'* (Project representative)

This enhanced connectivity between disabled people, DPOs and key stakeholders / policy makers is viewed as an emerging outcome from DRILL and has the potential to create longer term impact but needs sustained effort and commitment. Other feedback indicated that DRILL has already started to effect change in terms of thinking and practice:

- *'We believe that the research has helped to change the thinking around the lived experience of chronic illness as a disability. It has resonated across a range of disability organisations.'* (Project representative)
- *'Our development of inclusive employment practice and the interest from other organisations in our approach (outcomes from the project).'* (Project representative)

The references to a 'change in thinking' and a 'new language' would suggest that even at this early stage there are signs that DRILL has created the impetus or momentum for change, although the extent of change is difficult to measure now.



#### 4.2.5 Partnership Working

Consistently, positive feedback was received in terms of enhanced partnership working as an influencer on the implementation of good quality co-production. This appears to have led to a strengthening of networks and partnerships within and across the sector.

- *'We now have a network of people engaged.'* (Project representative)
- *'Creating buy in from disabled people and their families.'* (Project representative)
- *'Reach and the development of new networks.'* (Project representative)

The projects reflect positively in terms of partnership working and its impact. Perceived benefits of partnership working included: engaging new people, creating buy in and developing new networks. There is also evidence of enhanced connectivity between agencies and disabled people and between disability groups:

- *'Connections made from the statutory sector right into the communities.'* (Project representative)
- *'Bridged the experience between dementia and other disabilities.'* (Project representative)
- *'I think the project was a real learning curve for the police.'* (Project representative)

The strengthening of partnerships and networks has occurred through the delivery of research and pilot projects, the findings suggest an appetite for future collaboration and partnership working:

- *'We have retained links and still collaborate together.'* (Project representative)

- *‘The partners worked well together; we are in talks about future collaboration.’ (Project representative)*
- *‘The success of this project has encouraged us to try, where possible to work in a more co-produced way, in our team as well as across the wider organisation.’ (Project representative)*

*An academic from Queen’s University Belfast commented that she would seek out co-produced and co-designed funding for all future research due to the richness of evidence gained.*

### 4.3 Case Studies

To bring the findings to life, five individual projects are presented as case studies. This offers a snapshot of the type and nature of funded projects and a sense of the emerging impact from each. Case studies are presented for the following projects:

British Deaf Association	Enhancing Deaf People’s Communication Access to Justice in Northern Ireland	Pilot	£149,927
Centre for Welfare Reform	Chronic illness and citizenship – mobilising a collective voice for social change.	Research	£39,999
Cardiff University	Researching barriers to employment in the legal profession for disabled people	Research	£88,077
Horizon Housing	Researching rented accommodation for disabled people	Research	£92,538
DRILL Partners Four Nations Research	Understanding negative attitudes towards disabled people and the impact on independent living	Research	£160,000

### 4.3.1 Case Study – British Deaf Association (BDA)

The project was a 2-year pilot managed by BDA NI in collaboration with Queen’s University Belfast, Syracuse University College of Law (USA) and Rowan University (USA).

#### *Context*

Article 13 United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) states that disabled people have the right to effectively access justice. Deaf people are denied access to justice for many reasons and sign language users face significant language barriers when adequate access is not provided. *There are over 17,000 deaf people in NI and 5,000 sign language users.*

The report, and supporting resources, investigated these barriers and made a series of practical recommendations for rectifying the issues that researchers unearthed.

#### *Co-production*

A core element of the project was the establishment of the Deaf Advisory Group (DAG), an 8-person group of deaf people that had went through / experienced the Justice system in NI from different perspectives. The DAG met at least 4 times per year during the lifetime of the project.

From the perspective of the BDA Project team and partners, the DAG:

*“Led the project and provided direction, decided on the focus group questions. Agreed key themes to focus on within the research. Critical aspect of the project, instrumental in shaping research questions, analysing information and developing recommendations”.*

*“We want to build a bridge between deaf people and the Justice system. Without the DAG this project would not have happened”.*

A member of the Deaf Advisory Group stated:

*“As a Deaf person, it has been thrilling to be involved in the Deaf Advisory Group for this project and having an input in the Co-production of this report over the last 2 years ensures it will impact on the lives of Deaf people. I believe the event (launch event) and the report will raise awareness and ultimately lead to better service for all Deaf people in Northern Ireland.”*

The first meeting of the DAG helped to highlight some of the issues faced by deaf people in NI in relation to accessing the Justice system. Some of the experiences of DAG members included:

- *1 person did not know the difference between solicitor and barrister.*
- *1 person didn't know how to dress for court.*
- *Not aware of laws in some instances. For example, drink driving limits.*
- *1 person had a reason to make a report to the PSNI. However, as they had to pay for both a solicitor and an interpreter, they did not pursue the issue. Lack of funding was the reason for not pursuing the issue.*

### *Research Activity*

The main element of the research aspect of the project was a series of focus groups and interviews, with input and representation from the following groups:

<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Number</b>
PSNI Officers	4
Prison Service Officers	12
Solicitors	3
Judges	4
Barristers	3
Tribunal Members	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>

In addition to the research activity, BDA project team members delivered training to 34 prison officers. This was a pioneering pilot element of the project. Training and workshops were delivered for 155 people during the course of the pilot project.

The final report produced by BDA and project partners contained a series of recommendations for all stakeholders within a remit for the Justice system in NI, including the following:

- Police Service NI (PSNI)
- Prison Service NI
- Law Society NI
- The Bar of NI
- Courts and Tribunals Service NI
- Members of the Judiciary NI
- Department of Justice

A resource was also produced for these professionals working within the Justice System, “Tips for Justice Professionals: Top ten tips for working with Deaf sign language users and sign language interpreters”.

### *Research Launch*

The research report was formally launched in December 2019, at an event attended by a range of key stakeholders from within the Justice system.

The event was attended by the Department of Justice Permanent Secretary (at the time the top official in NI with responsibility for the Justice system). The Permanent Secretary addressed attendees at the event and made the following key points:

- BDA and project partners were commended for their work and research produced.

- A commitment was made to study and use the research including taking any action available within his responsibilities in the short term.

***The Permanent Secretary stated that the research would be the basis for advising an incoming Justice Minister.***

*Future Action*

BDA, the DAG and project partners are committed to building upon the work and view it as a starting rather than end point.

*“We don’t want this project to end, we are seeking additional funding to continue this work.” (BDA representative)*

### 4.3.2 Case Study – Centre for Welfare Reform

The 'Chronic Illness Inclusion Project (CIIP) was awarded £39,999 under the Fast-Track application process, one of the first grant awards made under DRILL. The project took place in the period 2017 to 2019 with a focus on exploring the experiences of people with chronic illness as a type of disability.

The project is the first of its kind in the UK to document the experience of people living with chronic illness and led by people living with chronic illness.

#### *Context*

The research team had identified that although Government research suggests that problems with stamina, breathing or fatigue are the second most common form of disability or impairment in the UK, the voices of people living with chronic illness were not heard as a community. The aim was to use digital platforms to engage with people living with and chronic illness, to document their experiences and identify key findings / learning that could then be brought to places where these experiences are not known or acknowledged.

The researchers had identified that people living with chronic illness had rights as disabled people but that these rights were not widely known by all that have a chronic illness. Again, this was another key area of exploration and learning within the research.

#### *Disabled Person led*

The project was led by researcher Catherine Hale and Catherine has lived experience of chronic illness, with a unique insight into the research area. The research was also driven by two other peers and all three researchers are housebound due to chronic illness.

This was a project that was developed, designed and led by people living with chronic illness from beginning to end. The research team

completed and published the final report and have been presenting the findings across various networks since publication. This was a significant achievement and impact within the project given that the researchers felt that chronic illness and their experience living with it has essentially 'locked them out' of employment or work in academia.

*'I'm on my way to Belfast to present the findings of our research to the DRILL team. For someone who works from bed and hasn't got out and about much for the past 30 years, this feels momentous'* (project researcher)

### *Research Activity*

The research used digital platforms to engage with people living with chronic illness via focus groups and survey exercises.

Over 2,300 people took part in the research via the survey. One of the key findings from the research was that although 99% of survey participants met Equality Act criteria, 66% fear hostility for identifying as disabled.

*'There's a lot of stigma to putting yourself in the disabled category if the person you are talking to disagrees with you being there'* (project participant)

*'My 'real' disability is one that very few people know about and which I'm sure would not entitle me to use the word 'disabled'. I have extreme, life destroying, tiredness. It limits my life far more than my emphysema and yet that's the thing that raises sympathy'* (project participant)

Social isolation and loneliness were rated as the biggest social problem survey respondents faced, over and above their health condition itself. Isolation was rated a bigger problem than poverty or discrimination. Almost half of respondents with energy limiting conditions reported a comorbid mental health problem.



## *Impact*

*‘The DRILL programme will come to an end, but the CIIP must continue and grow. This report lays the groundwork for our manifesto, to be released later this year. It will call for people with energy limiting chronic illness to be seen and to be believed’* (project researcher)

From feedback and input from researchers and the Chronic Illness Inclusion Project, it is clear there is a sense of momentum and confidence that has been generated from the research. Momentum to support the future growth and work of CIIP and confidence in having research that comprehensively documents the experiences of people living with chronic illness with over 2,300 contributions. This confidence and momentum can be best highlighted by the plans for the publication of a manifesto on the rights of people with chronic illness by CIIP post DRILL.

The research team have acknowledged that without DRILL, it is unlikely that the project would have been delivered, that it could have been led and delivered by a team of people living with chronic illness and therefore the impact in terms of CIIP and the wider chronic illness community would not have been realised.

*“The support we received from the Centre for Welfare Reform, and the uniquely enabling ethos of the DRILL programme meant that three researchers who were locked out of academia or mainstream employment were able to, not just have a job, but take the reins of the project”* (project researcher)

### 4.3.3 Case Study – Cardiff University

Cardiff University was awarded £88,077 to deliver the ‘Legally Disabled?’ project, a project based in Wales and England and co-produced in partnership with the Lawyers with Disabilities Division, the Law Society, the Bar Council, Hogan Wells law firm and two independent researchers.

The research explored:

- The barriers encountered by disabled people in gaining professional employment and career advancement in law.
- The ways in which such barriers can be circumvented and / or addressed.

#### *Context*

Not enough is known about the experiences of disabled people employed in higher status professional occupations. ‘Legally Disabled?’ was developed to show aspiring disabled people what is possible, expose existing barriers within the legal profession, and to highlight strategies for future inclusion. The research also focussed on increasing the visibility of disabled people in law and their influence on policy, promoting independent living for all.

Disabled people are the most under-represented group within the legal profession. By using the methodology of Co-production the project sought not only to produce knowledge, but to empower disabled people in the profession to contribute to and use that knowledge and the resources produced from it to bring about change and increased representation.

#### *Research Activity*

The research centred on the experiences of disabled legal professionals, not firms, managers or other stakeholders. The data collection consisted

of eight focus groups, fifty five face to face interviews and two surveys that gathered nearly 300 responses. For many interviewees, it was noted that this had been the first opportunity they had encountered to talk about their experiences. Interviews, in particular, gathered a substantial amount of very powerful and often emotive testimony that the researchers hope will motivate senior leaders and decision-makers to take steps to create real change for disabled people.

The core research team was led by disabled people with experience of academia and working in DPOs.

### *Impact*

The research found they not only encounter physical/ sensory barriers (e.g., inaccessible work environments and courtrooms), but also unnecessary obstacles arising from inflexible practices, attitudes and rituals. Significantly, the research found that disabled solicitors, barristers and judges are still 'unexpected' in the profession, experience ill-treatment, are poorly provided for and an untapped resource of talent.

The report found exclusion of disabled people was not always intentional, but routinely accepted in relation to behavioural codes, rituals and stereotypical expectations. Reflecting on project impact, Jane Burton, Chair of the Lawyers with Disabilities Division (LDD) stated:

*'The findings in the report are having a very positive impact in raising awareness in the profession. Non-disabled people have been shocked by what they've read about the experiences of disabled professionals, and they are now much more willing to really engage with us and help us campaign for real change. Until the research had been published, we had been on the outside of diversity policies. Just one example of the positive impact of the report has been the Law Society Gazette. Prior to this the Gazette published one article per year on disability, usually a profile of a high profile disabled solicitor. At the time the research launched, there were three articles in two days which is a record and since they are now publishing regularly featuring articles about disability and the legal profession and approaching LDD for comment.'*

### 4.3.4 Case Study – Horizon Housing

Horizon Housing was awarded £92,538 to deliver the 'Match Me' project, a 21-month research project looking into the allocation of adapted and accessibly designed social housing for disabled house seekers/tenants. The project partners included Housing Options Scotland and the University of Stirling.

#### *Context*

This report presents the findings from research into the effectiveness of allocations and lettings practice for accessible and adapted social housing in Scotland. The research followed on from a pilot study that designed and tested a Co-production method for evaluating the effectiveness of procedures for letting accessible and adapted social rented housing to disabled applicants.

From previous studies and analysis, it is estimated that around 87,340 households with a wheelchair user in Scotland (3.6% of all households), based on figures from the 2015 Scottish Household Survey. Some 17,226 (19.1% of all wheelchair user households) have unmet housing needs. Due to demographic changes, it is anticipated that there will be an 80% increase in the population of wheelchair users by 2024 with unmet housing need rising to 31,007 households.

The project explored the following in this context and to build on the previous pilot:

- How can disabled people achieve more, better and faster routes to independent living through social housing lettings?
- How can improvements to allocation policies and practices equal housing opportunities to disabled people?
- What support is required for disabled house seekers in the social housing application and lettings processes?

- How can adapted and adaptable housing better enhance independent living?

### Co-production

'Match Me' used a co-production approach and central to this approach was a Project Advisory Board, the recruitment of three self-identified disabled peer researchers and delivery of three all day feedback and discussion sessions held within each of the local authority case study areas.

*'I'm grateful to DRILL for providing the opportunity for me to work as a Research Assistant on such a fantastic project which produced a unique robust evidence-base around disabled social housing applicants/tenants lived experiences. I'm aware of the challenges facing disabled people in general who seek employment. The Match Me project greatly developed my skills as an early career researcher, especially in the area of supervision of peer researchers. I found everybody on the Match Me team inspiring and I look forward to taking my confidence and passion forward in future Co-production research.'* (Peer researcher)

### Research Activity

Three local authority case study areas took part in the research. The project tracked the lived experiences of twenty-eight households with a disabled social housing applicants/new tenant over course of one year. Each household was interviewed twice. Alongside this, observations were carried out into the allocation systems used by the three local authority case studies.

A project advisory group was established with twelve disabled people represented, to help support project development, consider findings and contribute to the research recommendations. Forty-three structured interviews were completed to inform the research, three disabled people trained as peer researchers conducted twenty-six of the interviews.

## Impact

'Match Me' identified what works for disabled housing applicants and what needs to change to achieve effective allocations, in quicker timeframes and with greater equality in terms of speed and range of housing options offered. The project has the potential to impact on local and national policy and practice given the evidence base established and recommendations identified. The project has the potential to benefit an estimated 43,450 disabled households on Scottish social housing registers if recommendations are implemented by local authorities, national housing authorities and housing providers.

*'Hello, I'm Zack (not my real name) and I was a Peer Researcher on the Match Me project. I chose anonymity while taking part on the project. I'm in my sixties, registered blind and live in a rural location in Scotland. The role was attractive to me because it enabled me to work with Disabled persons while trying to seek out the problems, they may be experiencing in finding suitable adapted accommodation. This was relevant as I had a poor experience of housing issues when I became classed as disabled....*

*I would finally add that the whole experience was astounding, and I would definitely get involved in another project with the team. I'm already recruited to help out as a Peer Researcher on another Co-production project called 'My Support My Choice: users' experiences of Self-directed Support in Scotland' run by Self Directed Support Scotland and the Health and Social Care Alliance. I recently graduated with a BA (Hons) in Media Studies and I'm looking forward to remaining an active ambassador and role model for local disability related organisations.'*  
*(Excerpts from peer researcher blog contribution on their experience of the project)*

### 4.3.5 Case Study – Four Nations Research

#### ***Understanding negative attitudes towards disabled people and the impact on independent living (learning from disability research across the UK)***

##### *Context*

As DRILL got underway in 2015, a considerable amount of feedback received during the programme's roadshows outlined that negative attitude towards disabled people had hardened. This was perhaps no surprise in a political, economic and social climate across the UK of increased austerity measures, social security reform, rising hate crime, inadequate health and social care services and disparaging media coverage. This prompted the four DRILL partners to collaborate on a combined research project which aimed to deepen understanding of these attitudes and their impact on disabled people and independent living through research which explored the experiences of disabled people across the UK. This significant piece of research was completed on a Four Nation basis, with each region undertaking research up to the value of £40,000 each and Inclusion Scotland acting as lead partner for the research. Each of the project partners led research on a specific topic which examined how negative attitudes have impacted on the realisation of independent living for many disabled people.

##### *Findings*

The research findings were stark and highlighted how negative attitudes and prejudice towards disabled people are deeply embedded in society at an individual, organisational and policy level. These attitudes manifest on a daily basis and include assumptions about what disabled people can and can't do, ignorance about and disenfranchisement of the disabled community, bullying and abuse in places where the disabled should feel safe and having to explain or justify oneself just to get access to the things most needed.

- **Inclusion Scotland's** project found that the disabled community encompasses a diversity of experiences and identities, and that disability discrimination is complex. Intersectionality is an important aspect when considering the reality of disabled people's lives and how best to tackle discrimination.
- **Disability Wales's** project underscored how partnerships are not always equal and more work needs to be done to ensure the increased involvement of disabled researchers as co-producers and that genuine value is placed on their lived experience.
- **DRUK's** project revealed that bullying and the social exclusion of disabled children and young people still exists. Unless negative attitudes are tackled amongst the youth, the status quo will remain.
- **Disability Action's** project highlighted how many disabled people are still not getting the resources they need to live independently. More effective funding of social care services is essential as well as societal change which challenges negative views of disabled people.

### *What next?*

Negative attitudes and stereotypes dominated the researching findings across the four research projects, with each highlighting that such attitudes and perceptions are still very much a part of daily life for disabled people and that this ultimately impacts on independent living.

Much, therefore, needs to be done to ensure that the independent living movement – which began over 50 years ago – does not become a mere footnote in history. As part of the DRILL programme, this research is an important and timely contribution to the movement particularly as the world grapples with the worst global health crisis in over 100 years which risks rolling back the hard fought for rights and visibility of disabled people.



To that end, the four DPOs have called for the UK and devolved governments, care providers, educational establishments and service providers to recognise the insidious impact of negative attitudes on disabled people and to meet the challenge by responding to and implementing our recommendations that would help achieve tangible and impactful change.

# DRILL Programme Reflections

## DRILL Programme Reflections

### 5.1 Introduction

The DPB, NAGs, CRC and Ethics Committee structures performed important roles in the development and delivery of DRILL. These structures comprised cross sectoral representation including statutory/government, DPOs, academia and the community & voluntary sector. Consultation exercises were carried out with representatives at interim and final evaluation stage. The findings in this section includes:

- Contributions from 34 NAG, CRC and Ethics Committee members via semi structured interview and fourteen responses to an end of project survey.
- Six semi structured interviews with DPB members and programme staff.
- Contributions from project lead partners via semi structured interviews and from project monitoring forms.

A thematic analysis was carried out and is presented under the following key headings:

- 1) Impact for disabled people
- 2) Co-production
- 3) Impact on policy
- 4) Impact on practice
- 5) Partnership working
- 6) Sharing of research findings and learning
- 7) Process and management considerations
- 8) Future priorities

## 5.2 Impact for Disabled People

Nine of the respondents to the end of project survey rated DRILL as 'excellent' (3 responses) or 'good' (6 responses) in terms of its impact on disabled people. 3 responses indicated an 'average' rating.

*'I do not have the overview of all DRILL projects, but the ones I know about supported positive change for the disabled people directly involved, and I am confident that this will have positively contributed to culture and attitude change more generally'* (NAG member)

*'Very definitely. It has certainly generated a lot of debate and increased awareness, as evidenced in levels of participation and interest in dissemination events'* (Ethics Committee member)

*'The project has shown the potential for coproduction in research and how research with disabled people can be carried out. Much needed in academic practice'* (NAG member)

## 5.3 Co-production

Of the fourteen respondents to the end of project survey, ten rated Co-production as 'excellent' or 'good'. Some additional qualitative statements from respondent provided further insight:

*'What worked well was requiring real leadership by disabled people or co-production with disabled people for any grant proposal to succeed. This was a major funding lever - and it worked. Co-production in the committees worked pretty well including the CRC, led by significant disabled academics and partners'* (NAG and CRC member)

*'This is a massive area and will take time to embed as 'normal' practice. The project has done an excellent job of highlighting the importance of coproduction'* (CRC member)

*'Co-production was a novel concept for many at the outset, but it was heart-warming to see how quickly this became the norm. It is not without*

*its difficulties as established bodies used to working in their own very enclosed arenas can be difficult to penetrate'* (NAG member)

Several factors required for good quality co-production were referenced, including ensuring accessibility at all times, consulting widely and getting feedback that slow down the research process, committing to meaningful collaboration between disabled people and non-disabled people across project roles.

DRILL's commitment to embedding meaningful co-production across its funded projects is considered one of its critical success factors and unique selling points. Contributors felt that this commitment to co-production has amplified its potential to effect practical and policy changes that can change disabled people's lives.

*'Co-production is a process. Getting the process right takes time and sufficient resources. The importance of accessibility and appropriate discussion, document editing and communication tools. This can be difficult to achieve when different partners have different accessibility needs'* (NAG member)

## 5.4 Impact on Policy

One of the respondents indicated an 'excellent' impact on policy with seven rating impact on policy as 'good'. Five respondents provided an 'average' rating with one response each for 'poor' and 'very poor'.

Whilst these ratings may suggest an underperformance in this area, the responses widely acknowledged that it will take much more time to deliver an impact on policy. Factors such as the broader political environment, the need for more time to assess policy impact and the need for a specific strategy and resources to lobby for policy change were noted.

*'The project has had some areas of significant impact in NI. For example, during the course of the Gillen Review into sexual offences, the NAG referred to the Review a project investigating sexual abuse of*

*disabled people. The project briefed the Review team and recommendations relating to disabled people were included in the final Review report' (NAG member)*

*'I think DRILL has influenced debate - but it's early to draw firm conclusions on whether it has influenced policy. I think it has shown the value of funding leverage to support disabled people's leverage, which is beginning to be taken up by funders more widely. TNLCF has been a trailblazer in this' (NAG and CRC member)*

*'It's not DRILL's fault, but the whole Government agenda has been skewed towards fire-fighting due to COVID, Brexit, etc. Unfortunately, at a time when these big issues are having significant effects on disabled people, policy makers have not actually been working with or listening to the disability lobby. I think it shines a light on strategic priorities and the lack of high-level influencing capabilities' (NAG member)*

## 5.5 Impact on Practice

Eight of the respondents rated DRILL as 'excellent' (3 responses) or 'good' (5 responses) in terms of its impact on practice. Four respondents felt that this impact has been 'average'. Whilst most respondents provide a better than average rating, this is clearly an area for future work and focus.

*'I think it has enabled closer links and understanding, and broken-down barriers between different groups' (Ethics Committee member)*

*'DRILL was such a new idea for the disability sector, which in parts is already serving its client group well, so I'm not sure if the impact on the sector was too great' (CRC member)*

*'I think one positive impact of DRILL is it has provided invaluable evidence when submitting funding applications to government and external bodies which allows important disability campaigning and service provision to continue. I also think the recommendations produced from the research that government departments need to be addressing are crucial' (NAG member)*

## 5.6 Partnership Working

When asked to rate their view and experience of partnership working within DRILL, seven respondents used an 'excellent' rating with an additional four indicating a 'good' rating. This suggests largely positive experiences of partnership working. Two respondents provided an 'average' rating. Some additional information and comments received are detailed below:

*'Partnership working was at a high level, with a mix of the key statutory and non-statutory organisations around the table'* (NAG member)

*'The project provided lots of opportunities to develop stronger connections between disabled people, academia and NGOs - this needs to continue'* (CRC member)

*'I liked being part of a diverse partnership involving different organisation - within which there was mutual respect'* (NAG member)

## 5.7 Sharing of Research Findings and Learning

Survey respondents rated the effectiveness of how DRILL shared research findings. The feedback was mostly positive, five respondents rating it as 'excellent' and five rating it as 'good'.

Although feedback was largely positive, qualitative statements identify a number of areas of improvement. Examples of positive social media campaigns and launch events were highlighted but respondents frequently suggested that a more consistent approach to 'sharing' would have been beneficial and more impactful. Awareness of research findings varied amongst respondents, suggesting this as an area of the programme that could have been enhanced.

*'There have been powerful launch events and reports and coverage in both media and social media. I think more could have been made of external communications earlier by clarifying respective roles and resources sooner'* (NAG member)

*‘Excellent. I would have liked to see this done more systematically across all projects on social media rather than just some’ (CRC member)*

*‘I think information sharing was not as good as it could have been’ (NAG member)*

*‘There could have been more widespread engagement and sharing of research’ (NAG member)*

## **5.8 Process and Management Considerations**

### **5.8.1 Time Considerations**

Feedback reflected an underestimation in the time and resources required to deliver projects than originally anticipated. Partnership working took time and patience throughout as did co-production. As a result, the majority of projects indicated that significantly more time was invested in the management, administration and delivery of the project than anticipated.

This is reinforced by programme records, almost all of the 32 projects required an extension to their project timeline, offering learning for future projects of this nature. A cross section of feedback has been presented below:

- *‘Gaining interest and support from host organisations for fieldwork were challenges- perseverance and an extended deadline for delivery.’ (Project representative)*
- *‘More research and administration time were needed.’ (Project representative)*
- *‘The national scope of the project was challenging for us.’ (Project representative)*
- *‘There were some challenges with the timescales as ethics approval took a long-time, but DRILL was supportive around this and extended our project end-date.’ (Project representative)*



- *‘We would build in more time to enhance the partnership at the beginning of the process in future to explore ethics etc further and mitigate against time delays.’ (Project representative)*
- *‘Limited time/ resource at the end of the process to explore future work.’ (Project representative)*

### 5.8.2 Effectiveness of Programme

In relation to management effectiveness, the following key reflections emerged consistently:

- The CRC and Ethics Committee structures were broadly effective and support from the DRILL Programme Team was valued.
- The DRILL Ethics Committee was effectively a ‘task and finish’ committee reviewing thirteen projects. This volume of work was just about sustainable for a group of five academics to take on as volunteers. However, for a larger-scale or longer-term research programme, the resourcing of ethics review would require a more formal footing.
- Oversight processes were very important and effective in ensuring that projects were focussed on key themes of co-production and disabled people in the lead. A significant level of work was carried out in the assessment process, and this was reflected in the robust level of scrutiny placed on individual applications.
- The Four Nation partnership was “new”, whilst partners have collaborated previously, managing a £5 million programme represented a much more formal and comprehensive partnership with significant responsibilities. Partners have different working practices and organisational commitments to balance against DRILL responsibilities and this created some challenges.

- As noted, delays relating to internal partnership arrangements within a project, ethics approval processes, commitment to implementing co-production and building momentum early in projects were experienced. The feedback suggested that these time factors were crucial in delivering successful projects, but they negatively impacted on project management.
- Representation at Senior Management (normally CEO) level has been retained within the DPB throughout the duration of the project, although these positions have seen some change during the five-year period of DRILL. The programme also experienced some staff turnover at programme manager level and within individual partners, this also created continuity and momentum challenges.
- A recognition that the scale of the project and the extensive body of work required to ensure that the programme was adequately promoted and accessible to relevant organisations was underestimated and created challenges. Partners acknowledged that this has involved more time and work at all levels of DRILL and their organisations than expected.

### 5.8.3 Resource Considerations

In relation to resource issues experienced by partners and projects, a selection of some of the feedback received is detailed below:

*‘The scope of the project was too ambitious for the available budget and partner time. This was not helped by the fact that we did not have any partners spending the majority of their time of the project and that most partners had a lot of other commitments. We had to reduce some of the deliveries. However, the importance of the project to the partners was very much greater than their time commitments.’ (Project representative)*

*‘The scale was bigger than anything we had previously attempted – creating opportunities and challenges for the organisation.’ (Project representative)*

These comments provide a snapshot of wider, consistent feedback from projects in terms of resources required to deliver projects adequately versus actual resources secured. It is not unusual for organisations to report an underestimation of the time and resources required to deliver projects; however, it was referenced consistently in the feedback from the 32 projects. This may be a sign of the ambition and scale of projects applied for and taken forward under DRILL and may be a recognition of the limited opportunity for funding similar research and pilot projects in the disability sector. It is also a recognition of the desire of projects to “push the boundaries” whilst the opportunity was available via DRILL.

### 5.9 Future Priorities

Respondents were asked about the key priorities for DRILL as the programme draws to an end. The most commonly discussed responses included:

- Secure additional resources and funding to extend the work of DRILL.
- Maintain networks and create / sustain opportunities for sharing findings and learning between projects regionally and at a UK level. Suggestion to bring people together for an online / virtual conference.
- Follow up and monitoring of impact on policy and practice (to establish the medium-long term impact of DRILL).
- Establish a network of DPOs and researchers/academics - to build on the new partnerships that could help the quality of evidence on the issues of most concern to disabled people, and the use of evidence for sustainable development of DPOs.
- Continue the innovative work of the DRILL Ethics Committee by advancing the learning and networks already established. Suggestions include applying for further funding to enable

supportive and accessible support systems to provide researchers outside of universities with ethical guidance.

- Share the learning and knowledge of co-production to allow further work and embedding of practice.
- Strategic influencing, re-position findings in a future-facing way, much better communications and translation of significance for policy and practice.
- Identify areas of follow-on research and further exploration.
- Development of material to collate and communicate the findings of DRILL, to get the findings on the agenda of policy makers and share resources to support organisation to lobby relevant government agencies.

## 5.10 Summary of Key Findings

A number of key summary points from the consultation are set out below, followed by a summary SWOT analysis:

- The level of interest in the application process is considered a key success. The demand and interest in the programme help to demonstrate its relevance, and the capacity to fund 32 projects with high optimism about their impact is an important achievement.
- DRILL has created a rich and diverse portfolio of quality research and evidence-based work about approaches to independent living which aligns with the original aim and intention of the programme.
- DRILL has demonstrated that co-production works and that disabled people are the experts on their own impairments. It also indicates that investing in and committing to quality co-production can generate impacts in terms of feeling valued, empowered and improved confidence.

- DRILL was a new programme that created new structures. There are many lessons to be drawn from DRILL. Learning includes a better understanding as to how co-production works in theory vs practice, the importance of investing time and energy to build strong partnerships and in relation to research, the importance of sharing and dissemination.
- The prominence of co-production across all aspects of DRILL was championed by the Four Nation partnership, it is questionable whether an alternative delivery model would have achieved the same level of commitment and buy in to co-production.
- DRILL has highlighted that working in partnership is challenging, but it can lead to innovation, imaginative working and can develop skills in resourcefulness. Significant time and resources are required to invest in partnerships if they are to be successful. This should be factored into future work.
- There is a lot more work to do to realise the impact of DRILL, to change attitudes, influence policy and change practice. There is a requirement for a legacy project to DRILL which will require additional investment, resources and commitment to work in partnership across the Four Nations.

# Analysis and Key Learning

## Analysis and Key Learning

### 6.1 Impact for Disabled People

Overall, 4,856 contributed to or participated in DRILL research and pilot projects, with 313 disabled people performing in leadership roles within projects. This is a significant level of participation and engagement.

This evaluation report has identified a clear causal relationship between the allocation of funds by the DRILL partners and the delivery of research and pilot projects across the UK which have embraced and embedded co-production at their core. This has resulted in considerable impacts for disabled people.

From qualitative feedback, participants have indicated that leading the development and delivery of research and being asked for their views on a topic that resonates deeply with them, in a meaningful way, has been a positive and empowering experience. These are positive outcomes although do not offer conclusive evidence about changes to independent living.

For the 313 disabled people that contributed to the projects in leadership roles, further outcomes and impacts were reported. New employment positions were secured, personal development outcomes were realised, experiences were shared with people of influence, confidence increased, and disabled people felt empowered and valued. These are all outcomes that have been attributed to their involvement in a DRILL funded project. This has been communicated in some powerful and impactful personal stories and testimonies from participants.

Evidence from the consultation suggests that in most cases, this would not have been achieved in the absence of the investment or to a much lesser extent.

### 6.1.1 Reflection on Programme Indicators

The original application for DRILL identified four key outcomes and thirteen indicators to be achieved over the five-year timeframe. A summary of the indicators is set out in appendix 1. Four of the indicators reflect outcomes for disabled people at an individual and personal level, for example:

- 85% of disabled people engaged feel more confident about their ability to live independently and fulfil their potential as a result of a Research Impact Intervention.
- 60% of participants reporting % gains in at least three UK ODI indicator areas.
- 85% of disabled people engaged feel more confident about their ability to live independently and fulfil their potential as a result of a Research Impact Intervention.
- 85% of disabled people engaged feel they have increased knowledge of key issues and understanding of approaches to independent living.

There are a number of key reflections in terms of the capacity of the programme to adequately report on indicators. The qualitative feedback from consultations suggests significant improvements in confidence, empowerment, knowledge and understanding – aligning with intended outcomes. However, the availability of survey/evaluation data to substantiate this is lacking. This is attributed to:

1. The availability of resources for both projects and the independent evaluation to record data for individual participants (of which there were 4856) was limited.
2. At interim evaluation, a recommendation was made that would focus on data collection for the 313 disabled people in leadership roles. The potential to gather this data was impacted by the onset of COVID-19 pandemic and thus limited data is available to substantiate qualitative feedback.
3. Achieving positive changes against some of the indicators would be reliant on new services or policies on independent living being developed and implemented, and disabled people benefitting from



same. Whilst this may happen, it will not occur during the lifespan of the actual DRILL programme and thus changes are likely to be longer term.

On reflection, DRILL should be measured on its ability to deliver change to services, policy and practice by DPO's, academics, statutory agencies or government departments. These changes are likely to occur post research and post programme and as a result, should contribute to positive changes for disabled people.

To enhance the potential for success at this strategic level, DRILL needed to have a high level of participation from disabled people in leadership roles to design, develop and deliver projects. This was achieved.

The major success of the programme is achieving the participation levels it did, in securing leadership roles for disabled people and involving disabled people in co-producing projects and research. This has created the conditions and the impetus for significant policy change. The fact that new employment opportunities or and positive outcomes for disabled people have occurred during the lifespan of the programme is an area of added but extremely important value.

## 6.2 Impact on Policy and Practice

### 6.2.1 Impact on Policy

The potential to generate change at a strategic level and lead to policy changes at local, regional and national government levels was one of the overarching aims of DRILL and a key part of the rationale to fund the project. Some of the assigned indicators relate to changes in policy, strategy or legislation. For example:

- 75% of UK and devolved government, public bodies or standard setting organisations state that the research findings have directly influenced the development of strategy documents, policies or decisions.

It is important to reflect on the political, social and economic environment during the course of the project. DRILL has been delivered during a 5-year period from 2015 – 2020, a period of unique challenges and events on a wider political, social and economic context. The period of austerity emanating from the financial crisis in 2008 and subsequent policy and budget decisions by governments in the period up to 2015, have had a major impact on disabled people. This includes changes in terms of the welfare benefits disabled people can access, services available and how they are treated / viewed as people.

The referendum and vote to leave the European Union in 2016 has been a major development across the UK and within devolved regions. The political debate and work of government has largely been dominated by this issue and the outworking's of the decision to leave the European Union, has left less time, interest and energy amongst policy makers for change across other areas of government, the economy and society.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented public health and economic crisis which has consumed governments in 2020, caused distressing levels of death and health issues, changed the way people live, work and socialise with others and has had a major economic impact across the UK which is likely to continue for many years. This has had an impact on the access to government and policy makers to lobby and share information and importantly has inhibited a range of information sharing, networking and lobbying events planned for the final element of DRILL.

This provides context in terms of the difficult macro environment in which DRILL has been delivered. It has been recognised at various levels of the programme that time, effort and focus to deliver policy changes is considerable and requires persistence. It is also determined by the resources available to do so, accessibility to policy makers, politicians and influencers as well as having research and evidence to support lobbying. In some cases, it can also be tied to consultation processes associated with new policy formulation which may be cyclical depending on the nature of the government, government body or agency.

From the evaluation process, few clear or direct policy changes of significance have been achieved from DRILL or its funded projects as yet. However, the availability of research has now provided a platform for a period of extensive lobbying and engagement around the findings and evidence base generated by the 32 projects. This is a common view amongst all stakeholders involved in DRILL.

The feedback from projects also suggests that they feel more confident in their ability to lobby for change. The challenge, acknowledged in feedback from DPB, NAG, CRC and Ethics Committee representatives is how this lobbying, information sharing, and dissemination is taken forward in a strategic manner as the DRILL programme ends. Whilst individual organisations lobbying for change may achieve some success on individual topics, it is unlikely that transformative changes in policy aligned to DRILL research findings will be achieved at UK government and across regional governments without clear strategic focus and direction.

On reflection, it was a difficult challenge for DRILL to deliver any tangible policy change during the lifetime of the programme but that a more realistic measurement will be the change achieved in the 2-3 years post programme. Project teams have documented some individual successes in terms of accessing new networks, politicians and policy makers. This highlights the potential to convert future engagements into policy change.

One potential area of opportunity is the change of government policy in relation to public sector intervention and investment as a result of COVID-19, with greater intervention in the economy, investment in health and social care services being a feature throughout 2020. Whilst UK and devolved government approaches may change as the pandemic progresses, it is likely that significant levels of public investment will continue in the future as opposed to a return to austerity measures. New investment and the search for new ways of working by government agencies present an opportunity to share and promote findings from DRILL and individual projects.

## 6.2.2 Impact on Practice

The impact of the programme on practice largely reflects that of policy impact. Whilst individual organisations have indicated that they will change their own practice or have influenced a change in practice in specific locations, organisations or services at a local level, DRILL has not delivered a widespread change in practice at this point. Individual examples of organisation changes in practice were noted in feedback from projects.

One example of innovation within DRILL and an area for future sharing and learning in relation to practice in completing research relates to the Ethics Committee.

## 6.2.3 DRILL Ethics Committee Overview

### *Context*

In the UK, there is no mechanism which allows researchers who do not have links to universities to gain ethical approval for social science research. Moreover, there are very few networks of support available to provide independent researchers with ethical guidance on a more informal level. Researchers working outside the university environment may therefore encounter barriers to conducting ethical research. Ethical approval is needed in order for the research to be considered credible by policy makers, journalists or academics, or for the research results to be published in peer reviewed journals. If ethical approval is not gained, this may mean the research does not have a high impact.

### *Ethical Research Co-production*

Given that DRILL funded 13 projects that did not have links to universities, the DRILL Team – with the assistance of five academics – established the DRILL Ethics Committee to provide ethical approval. Each member already had ethics committee experience, and the majority are disabled people themselves. There was one representative from each of the Four Nations. A DRILL Programme Officer provided

secretariat support and an internship was offered by DRILL in collaboration with the University of Southampton which involved data on the Committee's work to be collected and analysed.

At the heart of the Committee's approach to ethics has been the departure from a regulatory, top-down, risk averse approach. Problematically, university research ethics committees often assume that disabled people are necessarily vulnerable when it comes to their participation in research. The DRILL Ethics Committee have questioned this assumption and have sought to enable a more co-productive relationship with those seeking ethical approval, based on mutual learning and researcher empowerment. One of the most fundamental aspects of the Committee has been a focus on ensuring accessible documentation.

### *Impact*

As far as the evaluator can determine, the DRILL Ethics Committee is the first group to have provided ethical guidance to researchers working outside of universities in the UK. There has been a great deal of interest in the Committee's work and the Committee have been keen to share the learning. Highlights include:

- A presentation at the Social Research Association Conference in London (Dec 2019), three DRILL/DW webinars (Oct, Dec 2020) and a virtual presentation at the Scottish Third Sector Research Forum planned. (Feb 2021)
- Production of a DRILL Ethics Toolkit including a series of videos.
- Collaboration with the UK Data Service archive who will create a repository of good practice accessible information sheets and consent forms.
- Writing a journal article to be published in a peer-reviewed journal.

The Committee – in collaboration with Disability Wales - aim to continue to build on these networks into the future.

The Ethics Committee was seen by its members and by stakeholders within the programme as being an area of real success, innovation and solution to an issue that was threatening to impact on the delivery of research projects. The approach employed and the representation on the committee could be built upon as a model for other research projects.

To fully realise the policy and practice impact of DRILL, additional resources are required in the future for activities such as strategic messaging, dissemination of findings, lobbying, networking and evaluation.

### 6.3 Co-production

Co-production has been central to DRILL, recognising the value of placing people with lived experience at the heart of research and pilot projects and ensuring they are involved in their design and delivery.

Co-production was evident at all aspects and levels of the programme. This began at the initial design of the application process and the key research themes. Extensive consultation and contributions were received from DPOs, people with lived experience, academics and professionals working within the disability and research sectors. These informed the structure and focus of DRILL funding.

The application process, guidance and subsequent direction from the DPB and programme staff has been important in supporting the implementation of quality co-production within projects. The value of co-production was clearly communicated and the requirement for co-production to be a key feature of any project funded under DRILL was set out.

This was a very important strategic message within the programme. Feedback from consultations has highlighted the challenge associated with implementing quality co-production in terms of time and resources. When these challenges developed, the tendency could have been to reduce the level of co-production in light of time or resource pressures. The

direction given from the DPB, and DRILL Programme Team helped to ensure a sense of fidelity to co-production across projects was retained across projects.

At a minimum level, co-production within each project consisted of input from disabled people on a project advisory or steering group to inform the design, development, and delivery of the project. This allowed for input from disabled people in terms of the focus of the research, methods of engagement with disabled people, structure of questions, consultation activities, analysis of information and structure/content of research reports. In some projects, disabled people took the lead on all aspects of the research including writing research reports.

Key learning from this approach to co-production was that to do it right takes time, resources, patience and investment from all those involved but particularly in the approach to managing a project. This is particularly important for projects led by academic institutions, community and voluntary organisations and non DPO's.

Issues will arise in terms of ensuring accessibility to material and meetings, incorporating different views and perspectives and managing time aligned with project milestones. Whilst many of these challenges are practical or logistical in nature, it is important they are considered in future projects. These challenges, if not addressed, have the potential to impact on the level of buy in to co-production and fidelity to co-production. Some key learning points for funders and organisations that seek to deliver co-produced research or projects is summarised in the following table:

Funders	Organisations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The value and importance of co-production must be clearly articulated in guidance and criteria. This will help organisations to remain focussed on co-production particularly on partnership-based research / projects.</li> <li>• Consideration must be given to the additional resources and time that projects will likely need for co-produced versus non-co-produced research/projects. Co-produced research/ projects will require additional time and resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-production will add value and depth to your research / project, but it will require additional time and resource commitments.</li> <li>• It is important to clearly map the approach to co-production and planned activities at the outset of the project. This should be communicated to funders and project partners.</li> <li>• Consider the scope and remit of the project in line with co-production and the commitments associated with it.</li> </ul>

An important element of DRILL was engaging with academia to explore and recognise the value of the experiences of people with lived experience co-producing and contributing to research.

From the consultation, academics involved in projects and structures such as NAGs, CRC and Ethics Committee have recognised the importance of co-produced research and the value of having disabled informing all stages of research. There are testimonies from those involved in DRILL projects outlining how they will continue to embed this practice in future work and in some cases focus on new research projects that allow for co-production in design and delivery.



## 6.4 Partnership Working

Partnership working has been a key feature of DRILL, from the overarching partnership of DPOs that designed and delivered the programme down to partnership at an individual project level.

DRILL has demonstrated the value of partnership working, of having different organisations with expertise along with the voices of disabled people working together to research and explore issues impacting on independent living. When we explore the feedback across all programme stakeholders, the benefits of partnership working and how it has contributed to the production of better-quality research (as opposed to not having partnerships in place) is widely acknowledged. It was consistently the view of those consulted that working in partnership can create more meaningful impact in terms of advocating for change.

DRILL, and particularly the application process, challenged groups to identify and recruit suitable partners. This facilitated cross sectoral partnerships between DPOs and academia. Whilst there were incidents of partners being recruited just prior to deadlines or at short notice (as is the case with many funding programmes), the approach advocated within DRILL encouraged genuine partnership rather than a marriage of convenience to secure funding.

In terms of the scale of partnership working, 85 organisations representing DPOs, academic institutions and community & voluntary sector organisations worked in partnership across the delivery of 32 projects.

The effort and focus attributed at a programme design and delivery level has been critical in ensuring that DRILL did not produce a series of research reports and findings that reflected only one viewpoint or approach (i.e., all DPO led, or all academia led) but rather has a body of research which reflects different research approaches.

The experiences of organisations and people within DRILL have highlighted that partnership working (like co-production) is time

intensive, it requires commitment and resources from partners to work together and requires parity of esteem in terms of valuing the contribution of others. When we consider the nature of DRILL and the projects it funded, achieving good partnership working often meant that additional work was required and at a slower pace to ensure meaningful contributions from all partners.

Almost all projects have indicated that their project took longer to complete and required more resources than originally estimated. Issues relating to partnership working were the key contributing factor to project delays. These underestimations caused stress, pressure and difficulties in relationships between partners. Organisations work at different paces and have different internal structures and processes that needed to be navigated at various points within the partnership. A significant number of projects indicated that if they had the opportunity to apply again, they would seek additional lead in time to work on and build their partnership.

This is an important consideration for research projects or cross sectoral partnerships between DPOs and academic institutions. Key learning points in relation to partnership working from DRILL include:

- Take more time to understand partner organisations, how they work and internal processes that they have in place. This will allow for a more realistic allocation of resources and timeline for delivery.
- Partnership development is important, allow appropriate time for this and the completion of initial activities to establish the partnership.
- Allocate sufficient resources and time for partnership working, map this out against activities but also allow contingency for unforeseen issues. In relation to research this can include ethical approval, payment processes, reporting processes and partnership arrangements.

These learning points resonate for both funders and organisations seeking to deliver projects. For funders, it is important that expectations of projects in terms of outcomes, outputs, resources and timescales are

balanced against the level of partnership working they want groups to demonstrate and the value they place on partnership working.

For organisations, it is important that partnerships are not seen as a convenience to secure funding but rather viewed as a critical tool to add value and enhance their project. The DRILL Programme Team and partners have accrued lots of practical learning in relation to partnership working that can be shared with DPOs and academics for future reference. These should be collated and developed into resources for other projects in the future.

# Conclusion and Recommendations

## Conclusions and Recommendations

### 7.1 Conclusions

Concluding thoughts on the programme are structured on the original evaluation questions as set out in the terms of reference.

#### **1. To what extent has the DRILL Programme achieved its intended outcomes and what contribution has it made to the Research for Impact outcomes?**

The overall aim of the Research for Impact (RfI) project was to:

*‘Build better evidence about approaches to enable disabled people to live independently, which is used to inform future policy and service provision as well as give a greater voice to disabled people in decisions which affect them’.*

The three RfI Outcomes, and the extent to which they were achieved are explored below:

- *Building on existing knowledge, new knowledge is developed about the key issues experienced by disabled people, and ways to support their independence and make their voices heard.*
- *Research findings are used to inform policy and practice impacting upon disabled people at a local, regional, national and cross-national level.*
- *Disabled people have greater opportunities for independent living and are better able to challenge public perceptions, as a result of research findings.*

Reflecting on the findings, 4,856 disabled people participated in projects with 313 of these in leadership positions, a portfolio of 35 pieces of research was produced across the spectrum of independent living for disabled people and high levels of involvement of disabled people in co-producing this research was achieved. It is the view of the evaluator that DRILL has delivered against the overarching aim and intended

outcomes of the RfI programme. However, it is acknowledged that more work is required to influence how the learning and research is used to inform future policy and service provision for disabled people.

## ***2. What are the legacy and the sustainable benefits / impact of the DRILL Programme?***

The legacy and the potential sustainable benefits from DRILL are centred on:

- The availability of a portfolio of research that can be used as a platform for change – this is an evidence base and resource that can be used for future post programme lobbying, engagement and influencing around policy and practice.
- Co-production and partnership working – the learning across the disability sector and academia in terms of co-production and partnership working can have lasting benefit in terms of how future research with disabled people is conducted. DRILL has proven the value of both in the context of research. Furthermore, there are many lessons in terms of the approach, time and resources required to adequately plan and deliver co-produced research.

These are significant areas of benefit and learning that can be sustained as a legacy of DRILL.

## ***3. To what extent or reach has the DRILL Programme achieved in relation to influencing policy and / or practice?***

The influence of DRILL on policy and practice has been limited during the lifetime of its delivery. The factors for this have been noted within the report and in conclusion it is questionable whether this was a realistic measure of success for the programme during its lifetime. However, findings suggest that:

- DRILL has increased levels of confidence and has empowered organisations to influence change.

- There are many positive examples of new networks established, new connections made, new conversations started with decision makers and new opportunities to share the learning and findings from research.
- Disabled people are now ‘in the room’ and ‘at the table’ with policy makers and influencers and thus created an impetus and momentum to facilitate meaningful policy change.
- A portfolio of research and evidence has been created which would not have otherwise been available to individual organisations or the wider disability sector.

At this point in the programme, these findings, whilst positive and demonstrating the ‘potential’ to generate change, have not translated into any widespread change in policies or practice. The evaluator does not feel that this should be regarded as a failure of DRILL but rather an acknowledgement that this type of change will require additional time, energy and resources to achieve.

DRILL has created the conditions for significant change in policy and practice to be realised in the future, alleviating a major barrier for DPOs and academics by creating an evidence base that otherwise would not be available.

## 7.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the following are taken forward to build on the impact of DRILL, deliver a sustainable legacy from the programme and progress from the ‘platform for change’ into ‘actual change’ in policy and practice:

- Creation of toolkits and guides on co-production and partnership working based on the learning from DRILL.
- Strategic influencing and engagement activities, using the portfolio of research as a resource and using the collective voice of the four

partner organisations and individual projects to lobby key decision makers and politicians.

- Creation of an accessible online resource to archive research projects and all associated documents and resources produced post-delivery of projects.

It is acknowledged that these activities cannot be advanced without additional resources and therefore it is recommended that every effort is made by the DRILL partners to secure additional resources in line with these recommended areas of work.



## Appendix 1 DRILL Outcomes and Indicators

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>By When</b>
Disabled people have increased knowledge about key issues and new evidence of what works, enabling them to live independently and fulfil their potential	85% of disabled people engaged feel they have increased knowledge of key issues and understanding of approaches to independent living	Year one
	85% of disabled people engaged feel more confident about their ability to live independently and fulfil their potential as a result of a Research Impact Intervention	Year three
	2500 disabled people are accessing new services aligned to research findings and Research Impact Interventions	Year five

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>By When</b>
Positive influence on policy making and service provision in relation to supporting disabled people to live independently, through the availability of robust set of research findings	Minimum of 250 organisations (policy makers and service providers) are exposed to and made aware of the key research findings	Year five
	75% of service providers consulted and 100% of consortium members have amended policies and approaches as a result of key research findings	Year four
	75% of UK and devolved government, public bodies or standard setting organisations state that the research findings have directly influenced the development of strategy documents, policies or decisions	Year five

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>By When</b>
Disabled people experience improved wellbeing, independent living, choice and control through participating in or engaging with DRILL	A minimum of 2500 disabled people engaged in research and pilot projects.	Year three
	A minimum of 5 disabled people per project engaging in a leadership role.	Year three
	60% of participants reporting % gains in at least three UK ODI indicator areas	Year five

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>By When</b>
Disabled people are empowered and have directly influenced decisions about services that affect them	10,000 disabled people have contributed to the project via the website, promotional activities and roadshow events	Year three
	Citations in variety of news media, academic publications, think tanks, research papers and policy debates	Year five
	75% of disabled people state that they felt empowered and have had a positive influence on services that affect them	Year five
	75% of those stakeholders named, state that the contributions of disabled people to research and pilot projects have directly influenced a decision to modify their policies, practice and/or approaches to service provision	Year five

## Appendix 2 Funded Projects

### *Fast Track Projects*

<b>Lead Partner</b>	<b>Project Title / Overview</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Amount awarded</b>	<b>Nation</b>
University of Lincoln	Co-producing an inclusively designed exhibition with partially sighted, blind and elderly participants	Research	£36,397	England
Centre for Welfare Reform	Chronic illness and citizenship – mobilising a collective voice for social change	Research	£39,999	England
Vision Sense	Tackling violence and abuse against women and girls in coproduction with mental health, social care and housing services	Research	£39,959	England
Asian People's Disability Alliance	Humare Avaaz (Our Voice) – exploring the experiences and barriers faced by disabled Asian women	Research	£39,550	England
Inclusion Barnet	Peer support in progress: What works best to make peer support projects successful?	Research	£39,961	England
People First Scotland	Does it Matter? Decision making by people with learning difficulties	Research	£39,350	Scotland

Voices of Experience	Increasing Participation in Civic and Public Life: Coproducing Solutions	Research	£40,000	Scotland
CARP Collaborations	Young people and friendships – what matters to us?	Research	£39,985	Wales
All Wales People 1st	Evaluating for improvement: developing a tool kit that self - advocates can use to check if projects deliver what they promise	Research	£39,969	Wales
Queen's University Belfast	A translational case study of empowerment in practice: an evaluation of the Dementia NI Service	Research	£37,765	Northern Ireland

*Call 1*

<b>Lead Partner</b>	<b>Project Title / Overview</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Amount awarded</b>	<b>Nation</b>
Wiltshire Independent Centre	Exploring the transition from childhood to adulthood for disabled people	Research	£63,696	England
Cardiff University	Researching barriers to employment in the legal profession for disabled people	Research	£88,077	Wales
University of Stirling	Researching the costs and benefits of good self-directed support	Research	£92,071	Scotland
University of Glasgow	Examining the barriers faced by people with autism	Research	£99,808	Scotland

SOHAS	Exploring employer perceptions on barriers to work for disabled people	Research	£39,551	England
Horizon Housing	Researching rented accommodation for disabled people	Research	£92,538	Scotland
Research Institute for Consumer Affairs	Rate it! Consumer product reviews by disabled people	Pilot	£149,485	England
Praxis	Researching the experiences of people with mental health problems and intellectual disabilities of decision making processes	Research	£90,708	Northern Ireland
CHANGE	Employing peer support workers with learning disabilities in learning disability services	Pilot	£150,000	England
University of Bedfordshire	Exploring how to support disabled parents	Research	£99,256	England
Coventry University	Defining quality and rights-based Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for disabled young people	Research	£99,375	England

## Call 2

<b>Lead Partner</b>	<b>Project Title / Overview</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Amount awarded</b>	<b>Nation</b>
Alliance for Inclusive Education (ALFIE)	Reasonable adjustments and their effectiveness in education and training post Equality Act 2010	Research	£39,990	England
De Montfort University	Barriers and enablers to employment: Black disabled peoples living with Sickle Cell Disorders (SCD)	Research	£99,896	England
Edinburgh Centre for Research on the Experience of Dementia	Transport and Toilets: Finding solutions which maximise the design and findability of accessible toilets when travelling	Research	£81,706	Scotland
National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi)	The right to a relationship: Addressing the barriers that people with learning disabilities face in developing and sustaining sexual relationships	Research	£39,745	England

Barod Community Interest Company	The Bridge: Changing attitudes and communities by turning skills and experience into earnings for self-advocacy organisations and self-advocates	Pilot	£149,946	Wales
British Deaf Association	Enhancing Deaf People's Communication Access to Justice in Northern Ireland	Pilot	£149,927	Northern Ireland
Cheshire Centre for Independent Living	Care cooperatives – an answer to the social care crisis?	Pilot	£145,420	England
Positive Futures	'JustUS'. Getting the right support for victims of sexual violence (who have a learning disability) within the justice system	Pilot	£149,997	Northern Ireland
University of Worcester	Mutual benefits: The Potential of disabled people as foster carers	Pilot	£142,574	England
Mental Health Foundation	Empowering People with Psychosocial Disabilities' Participation in Physical Exercise	Pilot	£149,657	Northern Ireland