



BRIGHTLIFE LEGACY REPORT

12. CO-RESEARCHERS’
SELF-EVALUATION OF
FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE
WORKING ON THE
BRIGHTLIFE PROJECT
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The University of Chester Evaluation Team

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12. Co-researchers' Self Evaluation

Executive Summary

This summary provides an analysis and evaluation of the experiences of co-researchers employed by the Centre for Ageing Studies at the University of Chester (UoC) during the first year working on the Brightlife Project. It is the first report to evaluate co-researcher experience using an online survey tool, and the second report related to co-researchers in the Brightlife evaluation. In keeping with the test and learn ethos, data collection was performed using an online survey tool in place of interviews.

Survey questions were designed by co-researchers themselves, with an aim of identifying and understanding challenges and enablers related to co-researcher experiences during the first year. Results from the survey have provided valuable feedback to the UoC and informed a way forward. The full report will be used as a baseline to evaluate progress in 12 months (June 2018). It has been written retrospectively in December 2017, and also includes an addendum which details co-researcher feedback on the training materials and experience.

The online survey was completed by ten co-researchers (nine active and one inactive¹) from the first and second cohorts. The survey was conducted in June 2017, and results were feedback at a meeting with the UoC in the same month to discuss. Key findings from the online survey are reported below in relation to the four survey sections:

General

- Feedback was extremely positive with regards to overall experience.
- All 10 participants reported feeling mentally stimulated by the work. and nine would recommend being a co-researcher to others.
- A small number reflecting on minor frustrations with difficulties around time and diary planning and sporadic project work.

University Evaluation Team

- Co-researchers reported feeling mostly satisfied with the interaction with the UoC, felt supported and found the monthly meetings valuable.
- 90% of co-researchers found the training useful, 80% felt the training prepared them adequately the work they performed.

¹ Inactive co-researchers are those who have temporarily suspended their involvement or who have withdrawn from the role completely due to other commitments.

Brightlife

- Co-researchers reported mixed feelings about feeling part of Brightlife, however explained that the interest in participating was to be involved in the evaluation rather than Brightlife itself.
- 80% of co-researchers felt the evaluation feedback days were valuable.

The Future

- 100%* of co-researchers reported they wish to continue working as a co-researcher (*n=9 responded to this question, 100% of respondents).
- Some co-researchers expressed interest in more training, a greater variety of work and more regular hours.
- Overall, feedback about the co-researchers' first 12 months experience was very positive.

Key findings from the online survey and feedback on the training manual have been used by co-researchers to form a list of recommendations. These have been considered by the UoC to inform forward planning for current and future co-researcher cohorts