



launch event

15 September 2015

The world's first major research programme led by disabled people



Welcome

Welcome to the launch of the DRILL programme here in England! DRILL is a four-nation programme which is being run in England by Disability Rights UK. Our partners in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are all running events under the DRILL banner and we hope this will help us to work more effectively at a local and national scale.

What is DRILL?

DRILL stands for Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning. It is a five-year initiative to deliver the world's first major research programme led by disabled people. People living with disability or health conditions will work with researchers and policy makers to develop and oversee research and pilot projects. The programme will investigate how public money can be best used to enable disabled people to take part socially, economically and politically, as citizens; and what solutions will work best in a changing world.

Who are we?

Disability Rights UK is the UK's largest pan-disability charity formed in 2012 through the merger of Disability Alliance, the National Centre for Independent Living and Radar. Between us we have 88 years of experience in providing support and welfare advice to disabled people across the UK.

We are 'disabled people leading change'. Over 90% of our trustees have lived experience of disability, as do many of our 23 staff. Our vision is a society where everyone with experience of disability or health conditions lives equally as full citizens.

For more information, visit our website: www.disabilityrightsuk.org

Below are some key questions and answers about the DRILL programme. We hope you find them useful. If you still have questions, please speak to our programme lead for England Sophie Walsh or the overall programme lead Sylvia Gordon.

1. Structure

Will the organisations in the partnership be doing research?

Yes. Each of the four DRILL partner organisations will undertake some research on the agreed priorities, but most of the research will be done by other groups. The work we do ourselves may involve partnering one another in UK wide projects, working with other organisations entirely or working as single organisations.

How much of the money will go to Scotland/Wales/England/Northern Ireland?

We will ensure that substantial research and piloting happens in every nation of the UK and UK-wide.

How did you decide who was on CRC (Central Research Committee) and NAGs (National Advisory Group)?

Each organisation works closely with disabled people and their organisations as well as academics and policy makers. We identified who we thought would bring a breadth of experience to the programme. We wanted to ensure that there was involvement from across the UK and that there are a mix of disabled people, academics and policy influencers.

2. Involvement

Can anyone apply for funding?

Yes, but only in line with the specific research themes. We will be making specific calls for proposals against the identified research themes.

As part of the development of the programme, and through engagement, the partners have identified six broad themes. The engagement work taking place over the first part of the programme will help test the themes identified so far and decide on what the priorities are under those themes. We will then make specific calls against each priority.

How will you make sure that disabled people are involved?

The structure of the programme ensures that the National Advisory Group and Central Research Committee are led by disabled people. Proposals will not be accepted unless they can clearly demonstrate they have been co-produced by disabled people and that disabled people are actively involved in all areas of the programme.

We will closely monitor and evaluate all projects to ensure they meet the programme aims.

What do you mean by ‘co-production’?

Co-production means disabled people being involved at every stage of a proposal and subsequent research from ‘identifying’ what is to be researched to undertaking research, to drawing conclusions. Evidence of co-production will be one of our key criteria for assessing bids and we will require research applicants to demonstrate how co-production informs their methodology.

Can we get help to develop proposals?

Yes, there will be a Programme Officer in each of the Nations. Part of their role is to work with groups and help them to make connections with researchers and academics and vice versa. The Programme Officers will be a point of contact for people in each nation.

If a programme is UK-wide then the Programme Officers and the Programme Manager will work together to link up people across the UK as required.

3. Research

When will the first calls for proposals go out?

It is envisaged that the first calls will go out around April 2016

How much will be spent on research or pilot programmes in each nation?

The research calls will be based on where the programme has identified gaps and where the need is. Once we have completed our engagement activities and gap analysis we will prepare the research calls. Overall the programme plan is to deliver 40 projects across the UK over the next five years:

6 large research projects of around £100,000 each
20 smaller research projects up to £40,000 each
14 pilot projects of around £150,000 each

How will the research be disseminated or shared?

The programme will ensure any research or findings are openly available to everyone in an easily accessible way.

We want to ensure the research and findings are used to inform policy and make change across the UK.

How much of the programme budget will be used for research or pilot programmes?

70% of the budget is allocated specifically for research and pilot programmes. The remaining 30% will be used to support the running of the programme including the National Advisory Groups, Central Research Committee and Programme Officers in each nation, engagement, dissemination and communication.

4. Direction

Will you be funding specific work on Deaf people/mental health/learning difficulty/children/older people/LGBT people etc?

DRILL aims to generate knowledge and learning relevant to different groups of disabled people with different experiences. We seek to be inclusive in our work and to generate findings that are useful to the widest range of people - including people with different impairments/health conditions, of different ages, from different communities, of different faiths, different sexual orientations and more. We are not allocating specific funding to single impairment groups or age groups, but hope the spread of our work will demonstrate our commitment to inclusivity.

Will you be researching the cumulative impact of austerity/the closure of the ILF/the impact of benefit cuts?

We are very conscious of the impact of national policy on disabled people. DRILL's research is geared to finding solutions that make a difference; we have identified a bigger gap in researching questions about which solutions could work than in documenting the problems, barriers and challenges. We know quite a bit about what the problems are - we now want to move on to what the solutions could be.

We have identified the following research themes:

Cross-cutting

Autonomy

Being authors of our own lives and overcoming the barriers to independent living

Peer Support

Being able to support each other by sharing our experiences and learning

Resilience

Resilience acquired by disabled people as we grow through the experience of loss/adjusting to impairment

Social citizenship

Inclusive communities

Maximising disabled people's participation in community life

New service responses

New enablers and models of service to support disabled people to achieve independent living

Public services

How disabled people can be involved in the planning and design of services

Volunteering

Benefits of volunteering and activism in overcoming social isolation

Information

How removing barriers to information, data and statistics to facilitate choice and ability to challenge decisions

Economic participation

Education

Benefits of different learning styles for disabled people

Employment

Enhancing ways into employment for young disabled people

Career progression

Approaches to support disabled people to succeed in our chosen careers

Peer support for employment

Potential of peer support to enable disabled people to take charge of our careers

Civic participation

Active participation

The contribution disabled people make to society

Enabling leadership

The effectiveness of programmes designed to enable disabled people to take up leadership positions

Multiple identities

The interaction of gender, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, victim identity with disability and public attitudes



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Disability Research on
Independent Living & Learning

The DRILL programme is starting with a series of roadshows - find out if there is one near you

North West – Stockport – 22nd September

South East – Southampton – 29th September

North East – Darlington – 1st October

Eastern – Essex – 6th October

Yorkshire & Humberside – York – 7th October

East Midlands – Derby – 13th October

South West – St Austell Cornwall – 22nd October

London – Resource for London – 28th October

To book a place at one of the roadshow events contact Sophie Walsh at sophie.walsh@disabilityrightsuk.org

For more information about the UK wide programme, visit www.drilluk.org.uk

