

Project delivered by



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



James
Lind
Alliance

in partnership with Priority Setting Partnerships

Research Priorities for Learning Difficulties

A short guide to the Research Priority Setting workshop

What is the workshop for?

The aim of the workshop is to decide the top 10 questions for research into learning difficulties in children and young people. We call this priority setting.

We hope that this will help researchers focus on finding answers to questions which will make the most difference to children and young people with learning difficulties and their families.



Who will be there?

The people taking part will be young people with learning difficulties, family members and carers, and a range of different professionals who work with children and young people with learning difficulties across education, health, social work etc. These people will be making decisions together about the research questions they think should be prioritised.

The meeting will be run by three facilitators: Katherine Cowan, Maryrose Tarpey and Toto Gronlund. Their job is to make sure that everyone taking part is included, listened to and has their say.

There will be a few people there who will watch the meeting, but won't be taking part in the discussions. They will be introduced to you at the start of the workshop.

What will happen?

There will be an introduction at the start of the day to explain how the workshop will run, and to point out the facilitators and organisers.

You will then work in small groups to discuss around 20 questions for learning difficulties research. These have come from a survey we did



with children and young people with learning difficulties, their families and a range of professionals who support young people with learning difficulties in education, health etc. With help from one of the facilitators, you will decide together the order of importance of the questions.

The 20 questions will be printed on cards, and the facilitator will lay them out on a table to help everyone put them into an order, from most important to least important.

There will be refreshment breaks in the morning and afternoon, as well as lunch. But don't worry, you can take a break at any time you need to.

The format of the workshop has been developed by an organisation called the James Lind Alliance (www.jla.nihr.ac.uk). It has been used to set research priorities in many areas, including for depression, dementia, spinal cord injury, asthma and sight loss.



What do I have to do?

Talk about your opinions and experiences!

Everyone at the workshop will have different views and ideas, and they are all valid and important. Everyone will be encouraged to share their views, but also to listen to each other.

We want to know your personal views and experiences on which research questions which could make a difference.

Katherine, Maryrose and Toto are there to support you and will make sure you have a chance to have your say. If you have any concerns during the day, you can let them know.

Do I need to do anything to prepare?

You will be sent a worksheet with the list of 20 questions prior to the workshop.

We'll ask you to read through the questions beforehand and decide which ones you think are really important for research, and which questions you believe are less important.

If you have any questions, please contact Ai Lim on: LD_research@ed.ac.uk or 0131 536 8898

