

What is doing research together?



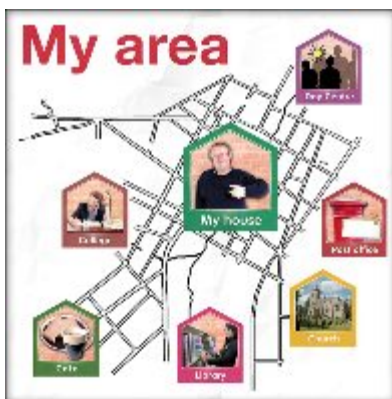
This is an EasyRead introduction to community-based participatory research.

It is taken from Community-based participatory research: A guide to ethical principles and practice

What is doing research together?



Doing research together starts when groups of people want to find out more about something that matters to them.



It is a way of sharing the power and money with groups of people in the community. These could be groups like:

- people living in one area like an estate or village
- groups that have something the same, like women's groups, groups of people with learning disabilities, youth groups or gay or black groups
- a sports team like football or netball
- or people with the same illness like breast cancer or HIV.





This research is different from usual research because it is done together by people in the community and the people whose job is research.

The ways people are involved could be:



- helping plan the research

- getting information



- putting the information together



- looking at what the information means

- deciding what to do about what has been found out.

Things to think about when we do research together



There are lots of things we need to think about when we do research together. Things like:

- who has the power and control?



- how are people's stories used?



- how do we include the things people want in the way the research is done?

When the research is about people's own lives these things matter even more.



Research needs to be done in a way that is right and fair, what does this mean?

Doing things in a right and fair way is called **ethics**. So a right way is **ethical** and a wrong way **unethical**. When people do research together, it must be done in a right and fair way, it must be ethical.



This means looking at:

- what harm or good does the research do?
- the rights people have to information and privacy
- how researchers behave.



We have written an EasyRead guide called *Doing Research Together* that gives you a lot more information about how it should be done.

You can get a copy of the guide on the Internet:

www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how-we-help/our-publications

www.durham.ac.uk/beacon/socialjustice/ethics_consultation





Arts & Humanities
Research Council



Durham
University

Centre for Social Justice
and Community Action



Credits

This paper has been designed and produced for Durham University by the EasyRead service at Inspired Services Publishing Ltd.

Ref ISL 318/12. February 2013.

www.inspiredservices.org.uk

It has been checked for accessibility by the **Making It Easier Group** of adults with learning disabilities.

The work for this paper was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council through the Connected Communities programme.

It is part of a project on ethics coordinated by the Centre for Social Justice and Community Action, Durham University, UK.

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