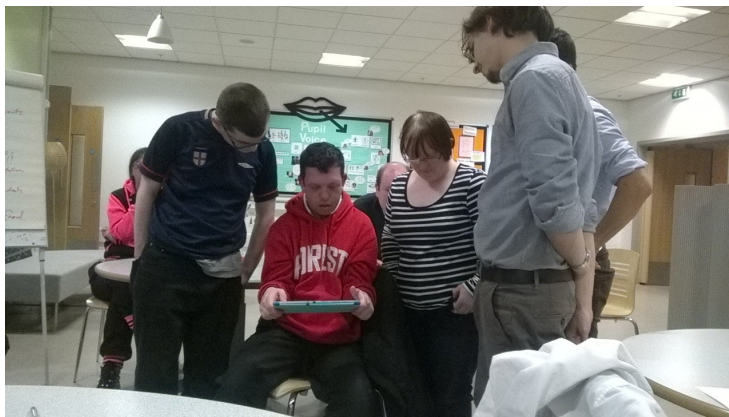# NICER

Nottingham International Consortium on Educational Research

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Who are we?

We are a group of people with intellectual disabilities who are interested in research and want to make sure research about intellectual disabilities conducted locally involves people with intellectual disabilities and is informed by their needs and wishes. We meet monthly at the local special school Oak Field.

Our group started in 1995 when we took part in a project funded by the European Lifelong Learning Scheme. Since then we have met regularly to review research proposals that involve people with intellectual disabilities and advise on research projects that are running for example writing information sheets, designing pilot work, advising on recruitment and dissemination, testing software and advising on accessibility. Our group is supported by teachers from the school and researchers from the local universities. Members have presented at international conferences especially IASSID (International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental

Disabilities) when it was held in South Africa, Seattle and France. We have also taught on courses at both universities in Nottingham.

Our members

Some of our members have been with us right from the beginning while others have joined more recently.

Here are some of our regular members:

Michelle has been in the group almost since the beginning. She helps with catering and keeps the register. She makes a good cup of tea. She has been to most of the conferences that the group has attended and particularly liked the one in the Millenium Dome. She likes learning about new things and the opportunity to get better at talking to people so she really enjoys the dissemination activities in which the group get involved.

Daniel G joined the group a few years after he left school. He enjoys coming to the user group because he meets friends there. He has enjoyed advising on a proposal to design a Go Kart and any of the projects that involve the robots especially when they dance.

Leigh has been attending the group since the late nineties. He has attended conferences in Seattle, Sweden, South Africa, Maastricht, Dublin and Montpelier. He has contributed to just about all of the group's presentations. He likes attending the group meetings and helped create Cheese Factory (a game that has proved widely popular).

Michael recently presented at CHI 2016 in San Jose California. He likes getting to know people and hearing about projects. His favourite conference is ITAG in Nottingham where he was interviewed two years ago by the BBC EM Today about one of the robot projects.

Dale has been in the user groups since he started school. While still at school he took part in the RECALL project and has helped both David Stewart and David Brown with conference presentations. He likes playing computer games.

Daniel B has been to lots of conferences including Montpelier and Maastricht. He helped to create Cheese Factory and to develop Route Mate, a mobile phone app to help route learning.

Emma has been part of the group for the last seven years. She is interested in the robot research, particularly working with the NAO robot. She has been to the ITAG conference at the Council House in Nottingham and helped with a group presentation.

David S is the head teacher of Oak Field School and, without him, the group would not happen. He hosts and chairs the meetings and makes sure we are all provided with pizzas during the meetings.

Penny is Professor in Health Psychology and Learning Disabilities at Nottingham University and is one of the original members of the group.

Andrew is a member of teaching staff at Oak Field with a special interest in IT. He is responsible for ordering the pizzas that we enjoy halfway through our meetings.

David B is Professor in Interactive Systems for Social Inclusion at Nottingham Trent University and is one of the founder members of the group.

Asking us to help with your project

If you want our help with research that you are planning please contact David Stewart whose details are shown on the Contact page. He will arrange for you to come along to one of our meetings.

Please provide a one page A4 lay summary of the project to David Stewart two weeks prior to the meeting. Your summary should include:

- Title of study

- Description / background details of the study

- Three questions you wish us to consider for example writing information sheets, designing pilot work, advising on recruitment and dissemination, testing software and advising on accessibility.

Please prepare:

- A 5-10 minute presentation of your project to bring to the meeting. We like to get practically involved rather than just sitting listening so please think about practical demonstrations or videos.

We will probably have some more questions on the day and then have some discussion time to give you the information you want.

We do like to hear about how your research worked out so please come back to one of our meetings to give us an update.

Contact us

New members are always welcome. If you would like to find out more about our group please contact:

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