

Getting Involved in CASCID-2: Public Advisory Group

Help shape the future of social care research!

What is CASCID-2?

CASCID-2 is a national research project led by the Care Policy and Evaluation Centre (CPEC) at the London School of Economics. It builds on the original [Catalogue of Social Care Individualised Data \(CASCID\)](#), a free online tool launched in 2022 to help people find and use UK social care datasets (information collected from national surveys or council/other organisations' data).

Social care data is often hard to find, scattered across different sources, and not always inclusive of everyone's experiences. CASCID-2 aims to change that. Over two years, the project will:

- **Expand the catalogue** to include more datasets from across the UK, especially from Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.
- **Improve usability** of the website so it's easier to search, navigate, and understand.
- **Increase inclusion** by identifying data relevant to underrepresented groups—such as ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and asylum seekers.
- **Promote awareness** of the catalogue so more researchers, policymakers, and practitioners can use it to improve services.

By making social care data more accessible and inclusive, CASCID-2 will help improve planning, delivery, and research in adult social care, ultimately benefiting those who use and provide care.

Who we are

We are a team of researchers from CPEC. Our team includes [Mr Edmund Stubbs](#), [Dr Derek King](#), [Mr Raphael Wittenberg](#) and [Professor Martin Knapp](#).

Why we need your voice

We're forming a Public Advisory Group of 10 people with lived experience of social care. This includes people who:

- Currently receive care and support
- Provide unpaid care for family or friends
- Have unmet care needs (who are on waiting lists or who can't get access to care they need)

As these groups are underrepresented in the existing CASCID database, we are particularly keen to hear from those from ethnic minority communities, LGBTQ+ people, disabled people, alongside others from disadvantaged backgrounds or whose experiences are underrepresented within social care.

What is a Public Advisory Group?

A Public Advisory Group is a group of people who bring their lived experience to a research project. Instead of researchers making all the decisions on their own, advisory group members help guide the project, by sharing their ideas about what they think matters most to people who care for other people or who need and/or use social care services.

What you'll do

You'll take part in three online meetings over two years. Each will last approximately 90 minutes. In the meetings we will discuss:

- **Setting priorities** – Help us decide what areas of social care the project should focus on.
- **Improving inclusion** – Advise us on whether/how disadvantaged groups are represented in the data and how we can do better.
- **Reviewing progress** – Tell us what worked, what didn't, and how your input made a difference.

You may also be invited to help promote the project or contribute to blogs or videos – but with lots of support and only if you're interested!

What you'll get

- £75 payment per meeting for your time (in line with CPEC's public advisor payment policy).
- Support to take part, including replacement care costs, interpretation support or financial contributions for support worker attendance. This will all depend on your personal needs, and we will discuss inclusive working with you as part of recruitment.
- A chance to influence real change in how social care data is collected and used.

We will pay you for your time spent working on this project according to the CPEC payment policy, which is based on NIHR guideline rates. This includes payment for time spent preparing for and participating in meetings, and for supporting activities such as document reviews. Please see the appendix below for further information around payment eligibility and things you should consider.

Interested?

We want to hear from you. To find out more or express interest, contact:

Edmund Stubbs – e.stubbs@lse.ac.uk

Visit: <https://cataloguesocialcare.uk/>

Appendix: Public Involvement Payments

To be eligible for payment, individuals cannot receive a full-time salary from public funds (for example, a social care professional). Exceptions may be possible (where agreed in advance) if an individual is in full-time employment but can confirm in writing that their paid employment is unrelated to the activity being requested or that they intend to undertake the activity in their free time (such as through taking annual leave or outside your normal working hours).

Please do speak to us if you are interested, but feel like this could be relevant to you.

Payment is made in line with HMRC's Guidance on research volunteers, lay participants and participants in clinical trials (<https://www.gov.uk/hmrcinternalmanuals/employment-incomemanual/eim71105>).

For public advisors receiving state benefits, compensation for their time or expense reimbursement might affect their benefits claim. The project team are unable to provide expert guidance on benefit implications, but the NIHR Benefits Advice Service for involvement (ced@nihr.ac.uk; 020 8843 7117)

is available to discuss any concerns about the possible impact of accepting payment on your benefits and allowances.

Payment will be made directly into individual bank accounts. More details about the payment process will be provided for members. Alternatively, we can provide payment in the form of online or physical shopping vouchers.

You can view further information at <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/payment-guidance-for-members-of-the-public-considering-involvement-in-research/27372>.