Using participatory methods to explore the lived experiences of underrepresented groups

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What we do...

- Providing evidence and insight where statistics may be unable to do so.
- Working to implement recommendations of the **Inclusive Data Taskforce** (IDTF) through understanding the lived experiences of different statistically underrepresented groups, whose views are less likely to be included through traditional data collection methods.

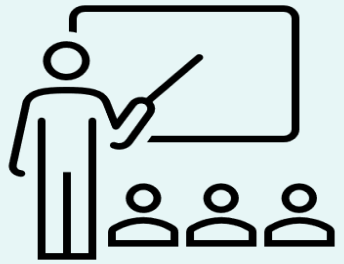
IDTF Recommendations

- Create an environment of **trust** and **trustworthiness**
- Take a **whole system** approach
- Ensure that **all groups** are robustly captured across **key areas of life**
- Ensure **appropriateness** and **clarity** over the concepts being used
- Broaden the **range of methods** and create **new approaches** to understanding **experiences**
- Ensure the **accessibility** of **outputs**

Previous and ongoing projects

- **Disabled people's** experiences with activities, goods and services
- Educational experiences of **young people** with special educational needs and/or disabilities (**SEND**)
- **Gypsies and Travellers**' lived experience in England and Wales
- Lived experiences of **displaced young people** living in England
- Lived experiences of **women survivors of domestic abuse** in temporary 'safe' accommodation

Educational experiences of young people with SEND across England



- Mixed-mode interviews with **62 11- to 16-year-olds** identified as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)
- A range of educational settings and support provisions
- Heard directly from young people about their **experiences**, **preferences** and **priorities**.
- Situated experiences with context from telephone interviews with **64 parent/carers** and online focus groups **24 education staff**

Gypsies and Travellers' lived experiences in England and Wales

- **48 life history interviews** and **5 focus group discussions**
- Exploring lived experiences relating to **health**, **housing**, **education** and **justice**
- **Experiences**, **needs** and **priorities** of communities

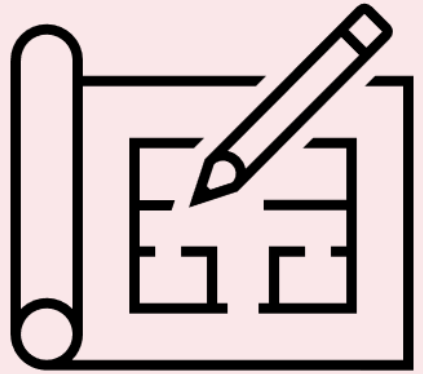
Disabled people's experiences with activities, goods and services, UK

- 56 online in-depth, participant-led interviews with a range of disabled people.
- Aim to explore **experiences** with private sector activities, goods and services across the UK, including identifying **barriers**, **facilitators** and **suggested improvements** towards improving the accessibility of products and services.

Scoping and Design

Early conversation to establish areas of priority and potential links with existing work

- Academics
- Policy
- Civil society organisations



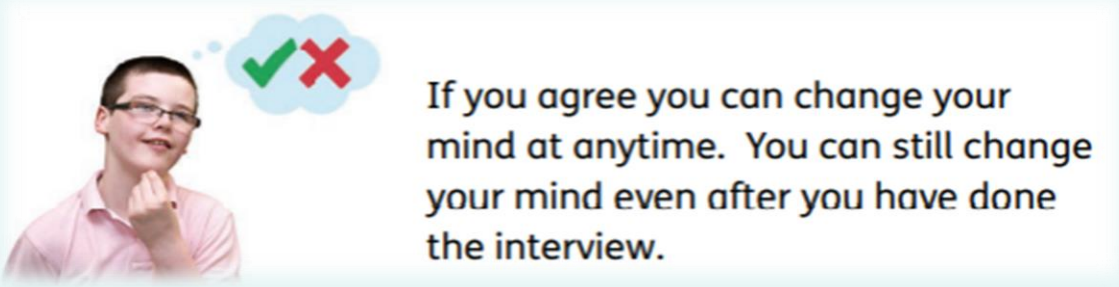
Identifying a range of participants' needs

- Building these considerations into the design
- Designing optimal approaches to engagement

Recruitment

- Maximum variation purposive
- Snowball sampling
- Trust
- Mode of contact

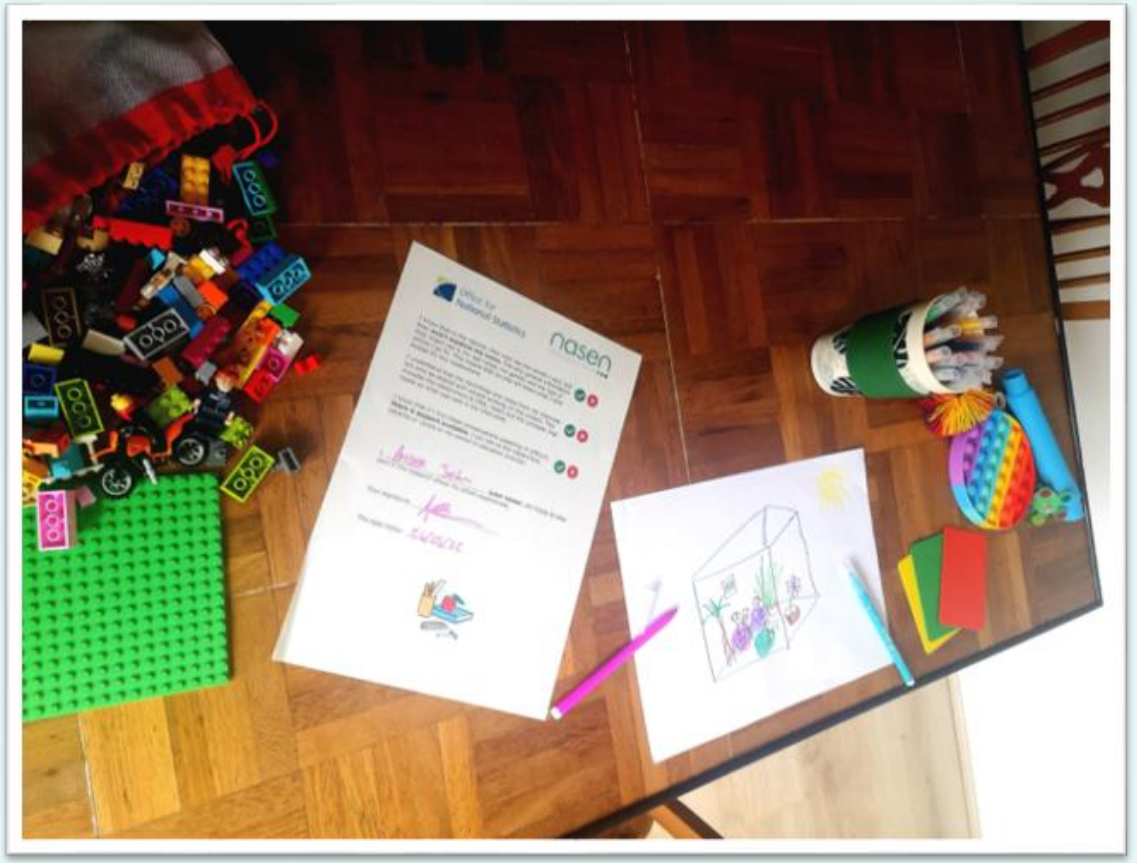
Informed Consent and Assent

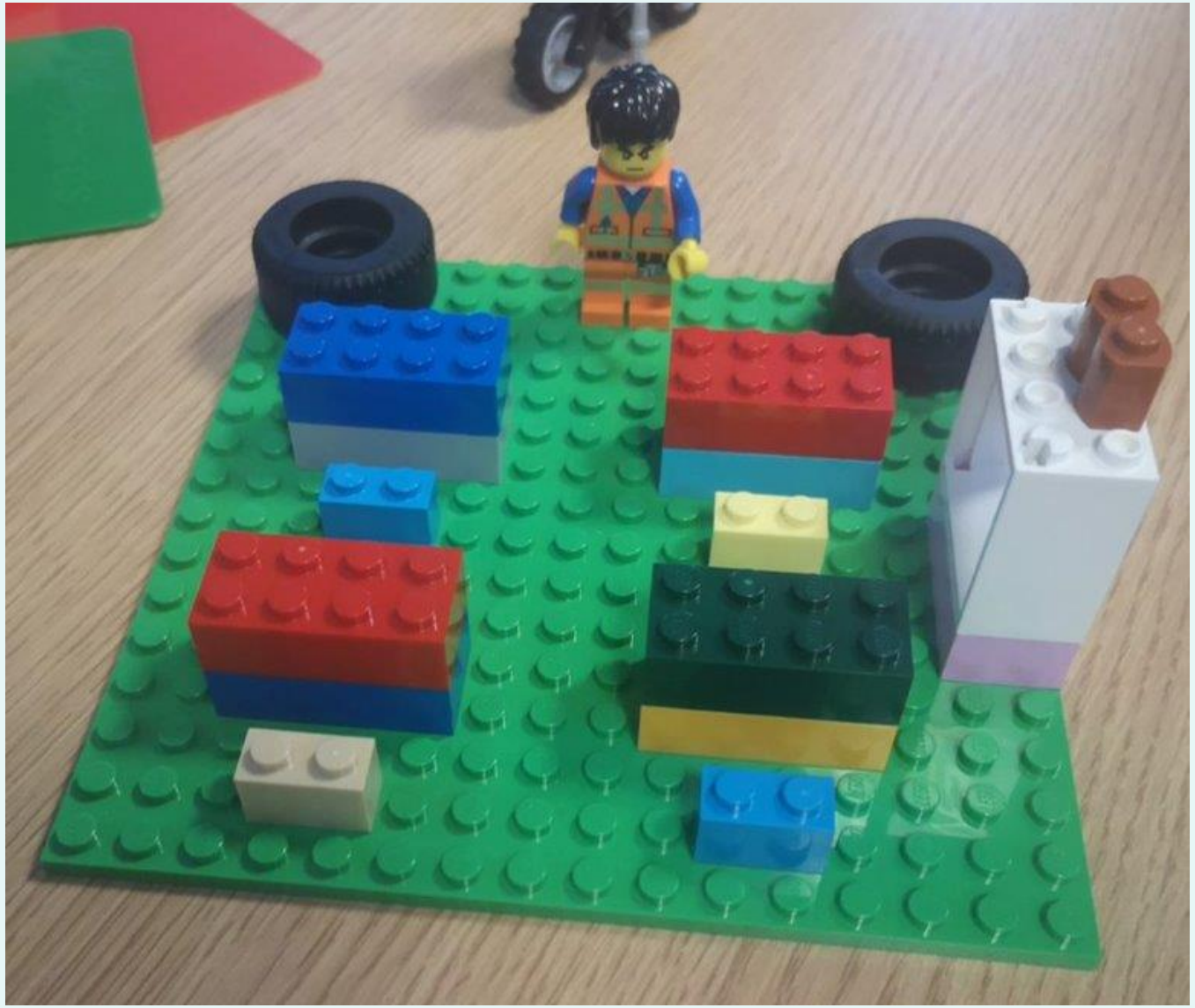


- Pre–briefing conversations
- Accessible information sheets/consent forms (Easy Read)
- Traffic light cards
- Attentive to signs of distress
- Dictaphone placement

Flexible Toolbox of creative methods

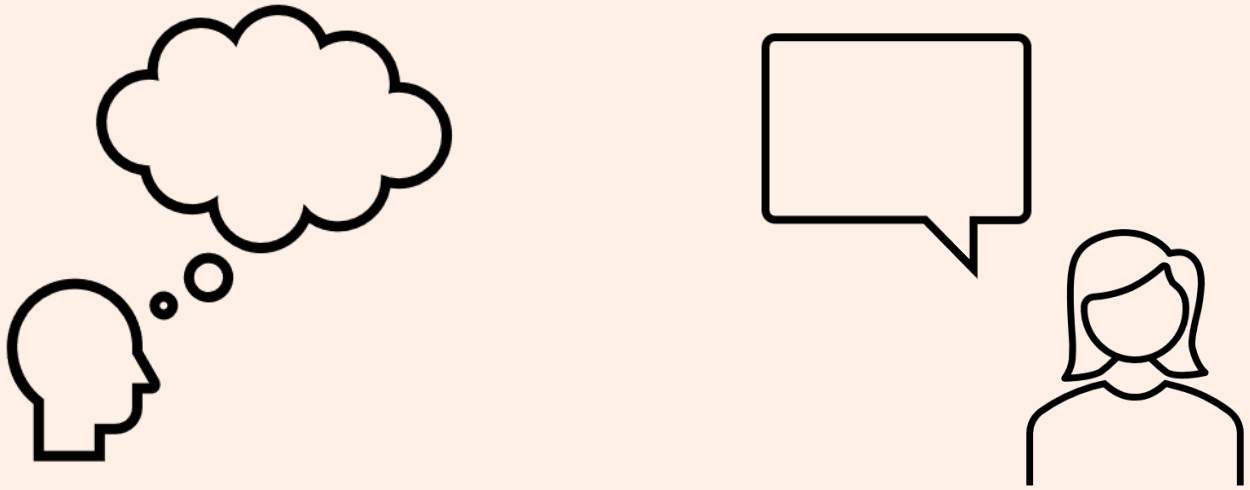
- Informal Chat
- Drawings and Lego
- Timelines
- Photo-elicitation
- Stimulatory / 'fidget' toys
- Pseudonyms





Life history interviews

“Please can you tell me about your life, from as far back as you can remember”



Analysis and dissemination

- Focus group discussions with **community members**
- **Reviews** by advisory group and CSOs
- **Accessible outputs**

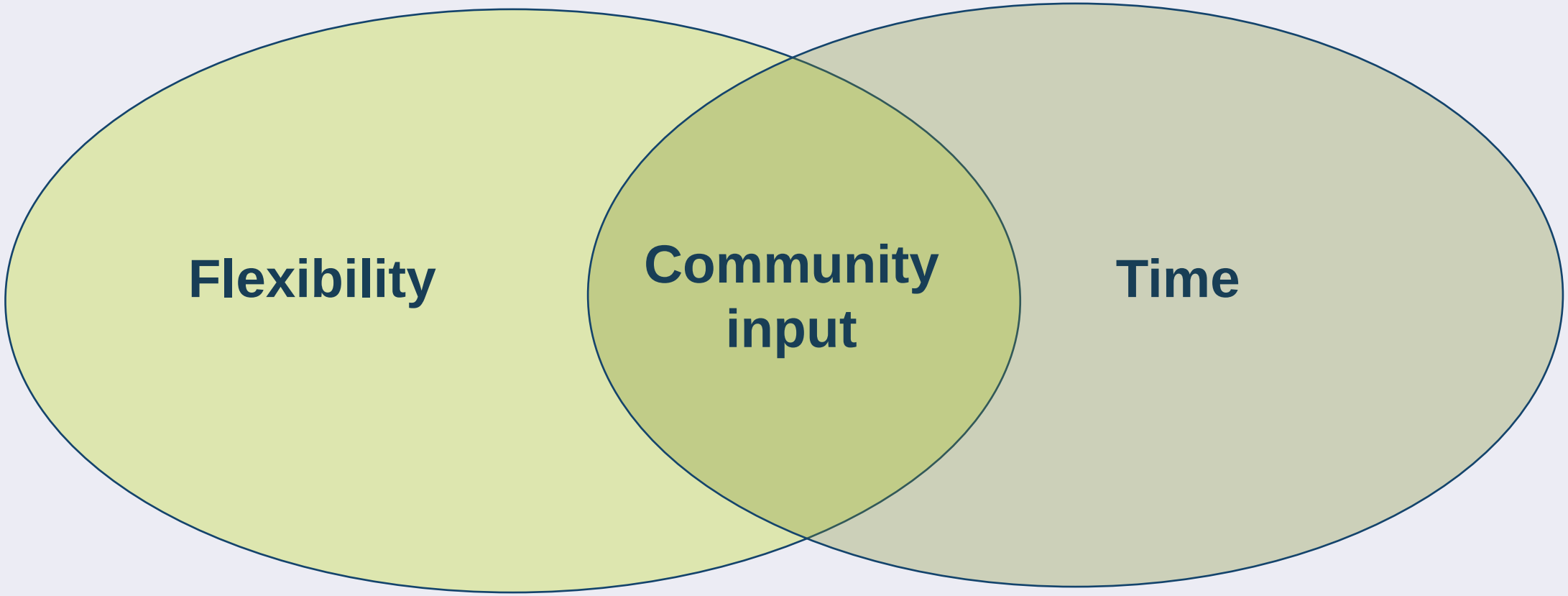
Strengths across the 3 projects

- Adapted **interviews** and **materials**
- Support from **experts** (professionals and experiences)
- Maximising **trustworthiness** through **collaboration**
- **Diversity** through **purposive sampling**

Learnings across the 3 projects

- Ensuring **sufficient time** for engagement and collaboration
- Considering the **impact** of having **multiple researchers**
- Understanding the **influence** of **recruitment modes** and **intermediaries**
- Inclusivity **limitations** of **data collection methods**

Take-away messages



Questions, comments and thoughts welcomed

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Thank you

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