

Practical session 1 Assessing risk and ethical considerations

The aim of this practical session is for you to think through some of the issues involved in the planning and interviewing of participants, focusing on risk and other ethical considerations. You'll work in small groups to discuss a scenario and feed back to the rest of the group.

Scenario 3 – Danny (reduced mental capacity due to LD)

You are conducting a research study looking at the experiences of people with learning disabilities of preparing for and attending court (from the moment of reporting the crime to the aftercare received post-sentencing). You have approached various advocacy groups to communicate the research to anyone who they feel might be interested in taking part and have supplied them with easy-read information sheets about the research to display on their premises. The advocacy groups are held in community premises and have offered their meeting rooms to use to conduct face-to-face interviews. There is a £20 incentive for taking part.

Julie calls you on behalf of her son Danny, as they have seen the research advertised at their local advocacy group and are interested in taking part. Danny is a 17 year old male with learning disabilities who doesn't like to speak on the telephone. He has a poor memory, especially for spoken language, but finds it easier to remember things he has seen and done. He also struggles to estimate time periods. Danny was the victim of an assault by two older males who were found guilty and given a 12 month custodial sentence.

Think about...

- Are there any potential problems around using an advocacy agency as a gatekeeper?
- What consent issues might you need to consider?
- Where will the interview take place?
- How would you deal with Danny's memory problems?
- What might be some enabling techniques that you could use with Danny?
- What may be some of the risks of interviewing Danny?