

Participatory workshops with older people - FAQs

What is the project?

[Involve](#), a public participation charity, is working with the [Centre for Ageing Better](#), a charity which is tackling inequalities in ageing. Together we are developing a suite of guidance and tools that will support local authorities and their partners to meaningfully engage with older people. We are going to develop guidance and tools which enable local authorities to set up and sustain specific older people's engagement activities and identify how older people can be involved in wider, existing local authority processes and structures.

As part of this, we are looking to speak to a range of local authorities, VCSE organisations and older people themselves. We will explore what is being done well when it comes to engaging older people, as well as what the barriers and challenges are to doing it better. We will then develop the tools and test them with key groups in Spring 2026 before we then pilot them with a local authority.

Who do we want to speak to?

We are going to run an online participatory workshop with 10 older people to explore your lived experiences of how you are engaged with by local authorities. We want to speak to a range of people including but not limited to:

- People who are regularly engaged by local authorities
- People who have never been engaged with by local authorities
- People who would engage more but experience barriers to doing so

What will the workshop be like?

The workshop will last 3 hours and will be designed and facilitated by an expert from Involve. In the workshop we will explore your experiences of being engaged with (or not) by local authorities. We will explore what barriers to engagement your experience and what you think some of the practical solutions to those barriers are. You do not need to be an expert in engagement to participate in this workshop. You only need to be willing to share your own lived experience, listen to others and discuss how to address some of the barriers.

What is our agenda?

You do not need to do any specific preparation for the workshop. We are sharing a rough agenda for the workshops in advance just so that you are aware of what we are going to be talking about.

- Intros and welcome
- Exploring your experience of good engagement
- Your experiences of the barriers that prevent you engaging
- Thinking about solutions to those barriers

What will we do with that information?

We want to create tools and guidance which are genuinely useful for local authorities to engage better with older people. We are at an early stage of this project so we will use what we learn from this workshop to inform the tools and guidance which we develop. We will then test these with key actors like local authorities before publishing them in Spring 2026.

What you say in the workshop will be kept anonymous. We may use some quotes to illustrate key points in some publications but these will not be attributed to any individual.

When and where will the workshop be?

The workshop will take place from 09:30-12:30 on Friday 23rd January. The workshop will take place on Zoom and we will email you with the Zoom link the day before the workshop.

How do I register to take part?

[Click on this link to complete the expression of interest form](#). Please make sure you do that by 9am Friday 16th January. We will contact you on Monday 19th January to inform you if you have been randomly selected to participate.

Payment

You will be offered a £75 thank you gift via bank transfer or voucher for your participation in this workshop.

Contact us

The best way to contact us is via email: AgeFriendly@involve.org.uk .

You can also text us on this number: +44 7418 340380