Introduction

Migration Yorkshire has worked with peer and community researchers for several years on a variety of research projects. (Read more about the different approaches we have taken to peer research). We know that there is growing interest in producing research alongside people with lived experience of migration.

The aim of this toolkit is to share learning and resources on using a peer research model to do migration-related research. The toolkit includes content produced by Migration Yorkshire, and also brings together learning from peer research carried out by other organisations.

If you are a migration researcher considering taking a peer research approach, or indeed if you already are on this path, we hope you will find this toolkit helpful.

If you have lived experience of migration and want to explore opportunities for peer research, hopefully you will find some of these resources useful. The blogs written by our peer and community researchers might be of particular interest to you.

This toolkit is organised thematically, with resources available for each of the following topics:
• embarking on a peer research model
• recruitment
• induction and training
• learning from other organisations.

Throughout the toolkit we have highlighted the benefits of taking this approach, both for the organisation, and for the individual researchers. We have also tried to be honest about the challenges of this approach, and the learning we are continually taking from working in this way.

A note on language: we describe this as a peer research toolkit but acknowledge that there are various terms used to describe this type of approach to research, such as community research or co-research. These are considered in greater detail elsewhere in the toolkit. At Migration Yorkshire we currently work with a team of Peer Researchers and Community Researchers, and in the Recruitment topic you'll find an explanation of the two roles. As 'peer research' currently seems to be the most widely used term, we have used this in the toolkit title, and as an overarching way to describe our approach. If you're interested in participation and co-production you might also want to read our Refugee participation toolkit where these concepts are also discussed.

A note on the title: you might notice that trees are a running theme through this toolkit. In a drawing in for our Sketches of hope project, a participant drew a tree and explained that it symbolised an important social space where people gather to discuss community affairs. This idea inspired the illustration that we commissioned to accompany our first blog, and which also appears on the front page of this toolkit. (We thank Hani Michael, an Eritrean refugee who lives in

Ethiopia, for drawing this sketch for us). In our context, we wanted the image of people talking beneath a tree to represent our aspiration to a teamwork model where researcher expertise deriving from lived experience is valued in the same way as other research knowledge. We've asked contributors to this toolkit to consider using imagery related to trees in their pieces, and to share images of trees that can speak to the ideas they are conveying.

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