# Involvement Opportunity: Advisory Group Member

We are looking for up to 10 people to work with us over 18 months as part of an advisory group overseeing a new piece of research.

We have funding to engage a research partner and want to involve Disabled older people who have experience of navigating work and employment support, so we can work together to design, manage and interpret the research findings. We will pay you for your time and contributions which we will confirm with participants before the project starts.

Read on for more information.

**What is the Supporting Disabled Older Workers Project?**

At Centre for Ageing Better, we are pioneering ways to make ageing better a reality for everyone. Our aim is to inspire and inform those in power to act, to tackle inequalities faced by older people, to challenge ageism and encourage take-up of innovative ideas and approaches to change lives.

In 2023 Ageing Better produced the ***State of Ageing.*** This report is the most detailed, varied and up-to-date look at ageing in England and from this work we have learned:

***“Sickness, injury or disability” are the the most common reasons given by people aged 50-64 for being out of work***

***Almost 2 in 5 (38%) of people aged 50-64 who are out of work due to disability or poor health would like a job, yet fewer than 1 in 5 gain work within two years of receiving employment support from DWP's work and health programme.***

We will be asking our research partner to listen to and document the experiences of Disabled older people in relation to work including access to fulfilling work, employment support or progression while in work. This will allow us to identify opportunities for change, to ensure equitable access to work specifically for Disabled older people who want to or need to work.

## Your Involvement?

We expect the advisory group to meet online, up to 12 times between March 2024 and September 2025, with potential opportunity to meet in person where practical.

Working alongside Lucy our Project Manager at Ageing Better, the advisory group will:

* Help refine the focus of the research, reaching a consensus on priorities
* Be involved in the decision and appointment of a research partner
* Help us understand and interpret the research we get back

You don’t need to have any previous experience of designing or managing research programmes, our team here are skilled in that area and will be part of the advisory group. What we need from you is your personal expertise.

We are particularly looking for people to join us who:

* Are aged between 50 and 66
* Live in England
* Are disabled or have a health condition that limits your ability to work
* Are comfortable talking about and sharing your personal experiences in a group for the purposes of this project
* Have access to an internet enabled device to join us online
* And have personal experience of any of the following:
	+ Have faced challenges finding fulfilling work because of your age and disability
	+ Have recently left work because of challenges in the workplace
	+ Have found that employment support doesn’t meet your needs
	+ Are in work but are facing challenges staying in work
	+ Want or need to be in paid work

The advisory group will include 10 people with personal experience of the issues we are seeking to address, working alongside our staff team.

It is our aim to include people from different areas of England as well as urban and rural locations. We will also look to include a mix of ages and genders between 50 and 66. This means we may have to make difficult decisions on who can take part if we get more interest than places available. If you are interested, please get in touch by Friday 15 March 2024 and tell us why this research means something to you.

Email: Lucy.Kenny@ageing-better.org.uk

Call: Lucy - **020 3150 4396**