



How we made a difference

2023 - 2024



Changing thinking



Changing practice



Changing lives



About ARC



The Association for Real Change (ARC) is a charity.

Charities try to help make things better.



We try to make things better for people with a learning disability, autism, or other support needs and their families.



We work in England, Northern Ireland and Scotland.



Our work makes a difference to people, organisations and communities.

This report tells you about some of our work in 2023 – 2024.



Find out more on our country websites.

England

www.arcengland.org.uk

Scotland

www.arcscotland.org.uk

Northern Ireland

www.arcni.org.uk



What we want

Our vision



We want communities that include everyone and celebrate difference.



We want communities that listen to and respect everyone.



What we do

Our mission



We bring people together.

We share stories and what we think.

We agree ways to make real change happen.

ARC makes real change happen in 5 ways.



1. Research

We find out important information and share it with others.



2. Networking

We bring people and groups together to share information, ideas and support.



3. Advocacy

We support people to speak up for their rights and get better services.



4. Policy

We make sure the list of rules we are told to follow in policies are good and fair.



5. Training

We teach people the skills they need to work well.



What we want to happen

Our aims



Better knowledge and rights

We want people to

- ✓ know their rights
- ✓ stand up for their rights and
- ✓ know the rights of others.



Better choice and control

We want services that

- ✓ listen to **experts by experience** and
- ✓ help people have the lives they want.



Better involvement and fair chances

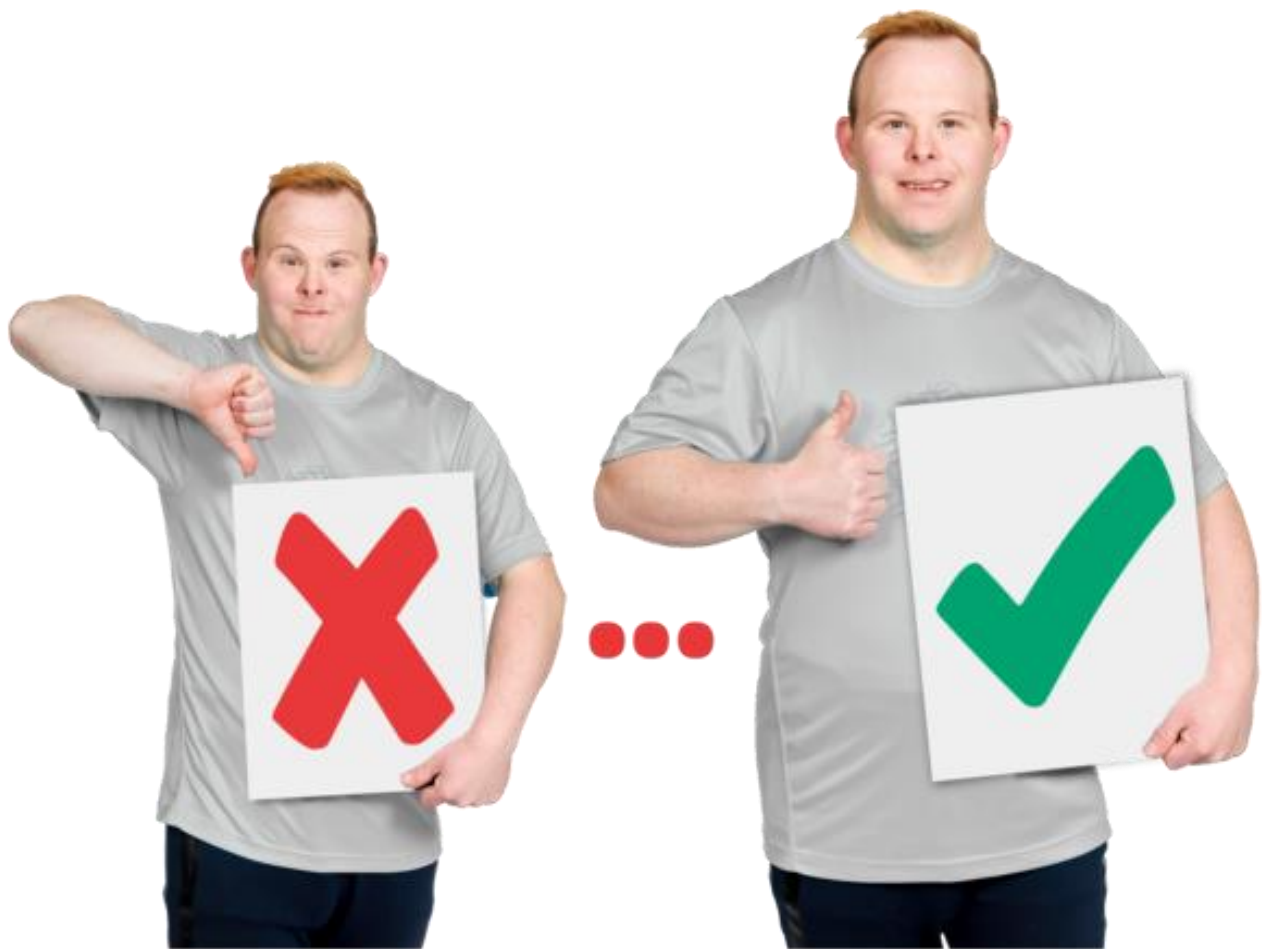
We want communities to

- ✓ change how they think, feel and act and help everyone be involved.



Experts by experience are people with a learning disability, autism and other support needs.

How we helped make real change happen

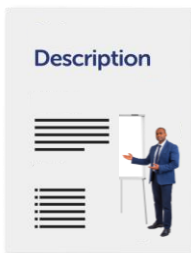




Training



We ran 244 training courses and checked how good they were.



98% of people said the training did what it promised.



99% said our trainers knew a lot about what they were teaching.



96% said what they learned helped them to understand more.



97% said they felt more confident in doing their jobs.



87% said they would do their work differently because of the training.



98% of learners said they would tell others to do the course.



Co-produced and co-delivered training



One big change in ARC England this year is that they started **co-producing** training.

This means training is made and delivered with experts by experience.



A Loss and Bereavement training course was made with ARC England member organisation MacIntyre.



The course was co-produced and co-delivered by Jess Hiles.

Jess has a learning disability.



We changed the training for NHS staff. They said good things about it.

Fantastic to learn from someone with lived experience.

Well done to all involved. A great course.



Networks



ARC had 718 meetings for

- Staff and professionals
- supported people
- parents, and carers.



98% of people said they had a good experience with ARC.



99% said ARC listened to them and respected them.



97% said they would tell others that ARC meetings were good

The meetings feel welcoming, and everyone is treated with respect.



ARC Disclosure Service



A disclosure service checks the background of a person to see if they have a criminal record.

This helps make sure it is safe for them to work with people who need support.

We did 5,780 background checks.

I wanted to .. thank you for all the help you gave me... It made such a difference as I knew I could ring you and ask for help anytime, you were amazing and so professional.



Workforce Development Fund



ARC gave out the Workforce Development Fund for **Skills for Care**.

This money helped adult social care employers in England with training and learning.

Skills for Care is an organisation in England that helps people working in adult social care.



£629,000 was given out.

275 workplaces got funding.

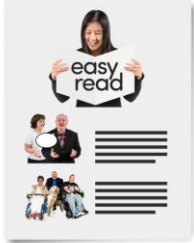


The funding supported 3,085 people in Adult Social Care to get qualifications.

We would not have claimed without ARC's support to do so... I'm sad this process is changing...



TILII Translates Accessible Information Service



Our Experts by Experience helped make 64 easy reads and 9 films.

Easy reads make information easier for everyone to understand.

They use

- Short sentences
- Simple words
- Pictures or symbols to help explain ideas

This makes such a difference for people who want to read and know about our plans.



How we got and spent our money



ARC earned just over one million pounds this year. This is more than last year.

This money comes from activities like selling training.



ARC has lots of savings in the bank. This means we do not need to worry about money too much.



It is important that ARC makes enough money to pay for what it spends.

This year, ARC made a little more money than it spent.



Restricted income is money we are given that can only be spent on projects.

This year, ARC got £740,000 for projects. This is about the same as last year.

£55,000 of this money will be used to finish projects next year.