



Changing Thinking, Changing Practice,  
Changing Lives



# Impact Report 2024-25

ARC NI is part of the wider ARC family





## Our Strategy

The [Association for Real Change](#) (ARC), a national charity founded in 1976.

ARC works in England, Northern Ireland and Scotland. ARC Northern Ireland has been in existence since 1999.

We want to help communities to respect, listen to and include people with a learning disability, autism and those with other support needs and their families.

To make this happen, we work alongside people and organisations throughout the United Kingdom that share our vision.

We make real change happen through:

- Research
- Networking
- Collective Advocacy
- Policy
- Training



Association for  
Real Change

**Changing thinking, Changing practice, Changing lives**

**Our Vision**

We want communities to celebrate difference, respect, listen to, and include everyone.

**Our People**

Experts by experience  
All people with learning disabilities, autistic people, or with other support needs - and their families.

**Our Mission**

We bring people together. We support them to share different views and experiences. We help them to agree and take action to achieve real change through:  
**Training, Research, Networks, Collective Advocacy, Policy**

**Our Partners**

We work alongside people and organisations that help to achieve our vision.

**Our Aims**

<p><b>Knowledge and Rights</b> Experts by experience are better informed. This includes knowledge about their rights. Our partners are better informed. This includes how to support people to stand up for their rights.</p>	<p><b>Choice and Control</b> Experts by experience shape changes to the services they want and need. Our partners support people to plan and deliver the services that allow people to live the lives that they want.</p>	<p><b>Inclusion and Equality</b> Experts by experience challenge and change attitudes and behaviours in their communities. Everyone removes the barriers that exclude people from their communities.</p>
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**Our Work**

Our country plans set out the work we do.

The Association for Real Change Limited | Registered Charity No 285975 | Scottish Charity No SC039129 | Registered in England Company No 0688264 Registered Office: Chesterfield

# We aim to improve:

## 1. Knowledge and Rights

- Experts by experience are better informed. This includes knowledge about their rights.
- Our partners are better informed. This includes how to support people to stand up for their rights.

## 2. Choice and Control

- Experts by experience shape changes to the services they want and need.
- Our partners support people to plan and deliver the services that allow people to live the lives that they want.

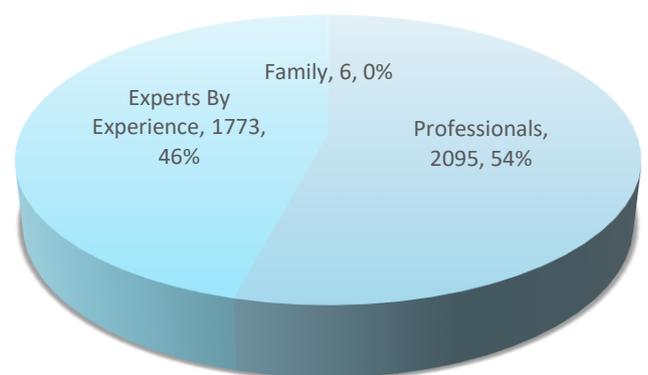
## 3. Inclusion and Equality

- Experts by experience challenge and change attitudes and behaviours in their communities.
- Everyone removes the barriers that exclude people from their communities.

## In Northern Ireland, during 2024-25:

- We delivered 64 courses to 870 people - these include people that work in health and social care across 151 organisations.
- We connected 2,157 partners - these include providers of services and support, policy makers, local authorities and family carers;
- We connected 1,717 Experts By Experience - these are people with a learning disability, autism and other support needs
- Experts By Experience created 41 accessible Easy Read documents for customers and 9 accessible advocacy films; and
- Facilitated 449 meetings and events with our people and partners - these are the spaces where we listen to the issues and think about what we can do to make things better.

ARC NI supported:





# The impact (change) we made.

## 1. Questions about our training

98% of learners said our training improved their knowledge and understanding

98% of learners said our training improved their confidence

83% of learners said their practice would change as a result of our training

## 2. Meetings and events

86% of people said our events supported them to know more about people's rights

90% of people said our events support them to shape and improve services

74% of people said our events support people being better included in their community

## 3. Listening to people

94% of people felt better connected to the learning disability community

89% of people felt better supported to collaborate with others

94% of people had a good experience with ARC NI

95% of people felt listened to by ARC NI

96% of people would recommend ARC NI to others



# Key Highlights

The build and launch of our new website which offers customers and online booking function to access ARC NI's training



Learning Disability Week and hosting an event where all Government departments heard the views and experiences of Experts By Experience and the barriers they face to inclusion and a full and meaningful member of society.

Calling for the establishment of a Supported Living Group within the wider Social Care Collaborative work to reform social care. ARC NI is co-chair.



ARC NI Conference – celebrating 25 years of the learning disability community, their achievements and what still needs to be done to ensure the progression of rights of people with a learning disability, autism and other support needs

# Listening to people

“In developing the NI approach to Managed Budgets, ARC NI has played a vital role. They have helped develop the workplan and obtained funding for the IMPACT role, linked us with key organisations, provided expert insights into the challenges and also kept the focus on the importance and huge potential for this work if it is done right..”



“Our service is focused on social inclusion for adults with a learning disability. ARC NI’s networks act as a conduit for shared learning between colleagues in the learning disability community and equip staff with information and training to better support people.”



“ARC NI has been an important voice during the development of the Adult Protection Bill. They have assisted the Department of Health in understanding the needs and voices of people with a learning disability and I have really valued their input.”

“Great work ARC NI! Well informed, constructive and challenging in your approach but always respectful. A model organization for how change should be stimulated, co-produced and supported.”

“As with each passing year, our financial year commenced with limited understanding of any potential uplifts, but the now more recurrent process with the DOH/SPPG allowed us to be part of the discussion from early on. Particularly through the work of the Association for Real Change here in Northern Ireland who have fostered more and more opportunities for us as a small provider to be at the table when key discussions are working through. So, I would place on record our thanks to ARC NI for facilitating and encouraging that.”

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The Association for Real Change is a UK-wide charitable organisation, comprising ARC England, ARC Scotland, and ARC Northern Ireland.

