

Nearest Relatives Resources: **Impact report**

Background

If someone is compulsorily admitted to hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 for psychiatric care and treatment, [their Nearest Relative becomes a crucial part of what happens next.](#)

Nearest Relatives have important legal rights and responsibilities, and need and deserve information, guidance and help about their role. However, often they struggle to make sense of how things work.

With funding from UKRI, we co-created [a website](#) for Nearest Relatives to find information and practical advice to help them in their role.

“It will provide the tools and resources needed to help people.” (Nearest Relative)

“The content of the website looks really helpful and is a useful resource. I love how it was co-designed and nearest relatives and carers were involved. Fantastic work, thank you.” (Practitioner)

This impact report sets out what we did, how well we did and the difference we have made so far.



What did we do?

It all started with [a research project](#) about Nearest Relatives' experiences. Then, in 2024, we worked with a group of Nearest Relatives, Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs) and advisors to identify actions to improve advice and support.

We created a [Policy Briefing](#) with a central recommendation to improve information for Nearest Relatives. We then set out to create the information that was needed.

In May 2025 we held a UKRI-funded knowledge exchange with Nearest Relatives, AMHPs and advisors and identified the aims, formats and essential messages for Nearest Relatives' resources. We decided to co-create a website as a go-to place for Nearest Relatives.

- We drafted, revised and finalised a website including [10 tools and 7 films](#).
- We held a national online launch of the website in November 2025 hosted by the Carers Trust and made [the recording](#) available on the website.
- We published nine [blogs](#), including one for the [Centre for Mental Health](#) and one for the Critical AMHP.
- We created a further [Policy Briefing](#) with Bristol University.
- The resources have been shared through events including with Cygnet, BASW, AMHPs regional forum and the National Institute for Health Research.
- We have created podcasts with [BASW](#) and [Alex Ruck Keene](#).

How well did we do?

Knowledge Exchange

"It's empowering to be able to provide insight to others."

"Together we made great progress in capturing the experience of all of the participants and establishing the information that is important to share."

All 13 attendees remained involved throughout the development of the resources.



Online launch

"An excellent and much needed resource, thoroughly and thoughtfully produced."

"How have we gone so long without a resource like this?"

Sixty-one people attended the launch.

Website

"The co-production and careful consideration of carers' emotional needs shine through."

The website has been featured on press releases from [University of Bristol](#) and

[UKRI](#), picked up by Radio Bristol, and shared by organisations including BASW and SCIE.

Our social media posts and blogs about the resources each had hundreds of views.

There have been over 5000 views of our website from more than 2000 visitors in our first six months.

What difference did we make?

There are links to our website from the websites of Mind, the Carers Trust and Cygnet, and from the AMHP leads network and Community of Practice in Wales.

Feedback during and following the launch highlights how the resources are used:

"I'm using these very resources today for an assessment."

"We put the link in letters to Nearest Relatives."

"We will include the website address in all our communication."

The project team have met with leads at the Department of Health and Social Care to share the resources and will link into the development of guidance on the Nominated Person role.

Additional URKI funding has been awarded to update the website to reflect and support the implementation of Nominated Persons.

"It just needs to be part of the toolkit" (AMHP)

Further information

[Visit the website here.](#)

[Contact Professor Laing here.](#)

