

Ceri Phelps (1); Paul B Hutchings (1); Fatma Layas (2) University of Wales Trinity Saint David Email ceri.phelps@uwtsd.ac.uk
1. Applied Psychology Research Group 2. Assistive Technologies Innovation Centre. UWTSd.

Introduction

- ❖ Losing a lower limb has a deep and lasting psychological impact, affecting self-esteem, body confidence, and personal identity.
- ❖ While advances in prosthetics have improved quality of life for many, our recent research and engagement with amputees across the UK highlight persistent unmet needs, especially in emotional and psychological support (Phelps et al., 2024 [1]).
- ❖ This 12 month project, funded by the VTCT Foundation, aims to fill this gap by developing and evaluating an easy-to-use digital resource, co-produced with individuals living with limb loss and those who support them



The Person-Based Approach to Co-Production

The project design maps on to the development and feasibility stages of the Medical Research Council's framework for the development and evaluation of complex interventions [2] and embraces the principles of the Person-Based Approach [3] (Fig 1) to enhancing the acceptability and feasibility of interventions through active patient and stakeholder engagement in all stages of the project.

What is the Person-Based Approach (PBA)?

The PBA combines stakeholder and PPI co-production with in-depth qualitative and mixed methods research with a diverse range of people. Using the PBA will enable you to:

- ✓ Understand and meaningfully address the views, needs and experiences of intervention users
- ✓ Understand the context within which users are engaging with the intervention or behaviour change
- ✓ Consider how theory- and evidence-based content can be delivered and communicated in the most engaging and persuasive way
- ✓ Discover the need for new intervention features that are not yet evidence-based or indicated by existing theory
- ✓ Systematically document, agree and prioritise required intervention elements and changes
- ✓ Identify and resolve problems with user engagement early so that fewer resources are wasted evaluating or implementing ineffective interventions

Fig 1: PBA Approach

[Person-Based Approach \(PBA\) - Contact Us](#)

Project Objectives

1. To co-produce an easily accessible digital intervention that is considered feasible and acceptable by individuals living with limb loss
2. To explore the impact of initial engagement with the intervention on psychosocial adjustment, coping and self-stigma amongst people living with limb loss
3. To examine whether the intervention can increase awareness, empathy, and social interaction preparedness within the general population towards people living with limb loss
4. To explore the potential utility of the intervention as a training tool for clinicians and other health professionals working with individuals with limb loss



Fig 2: Co-production Workshop 1

Developing content areas and themes

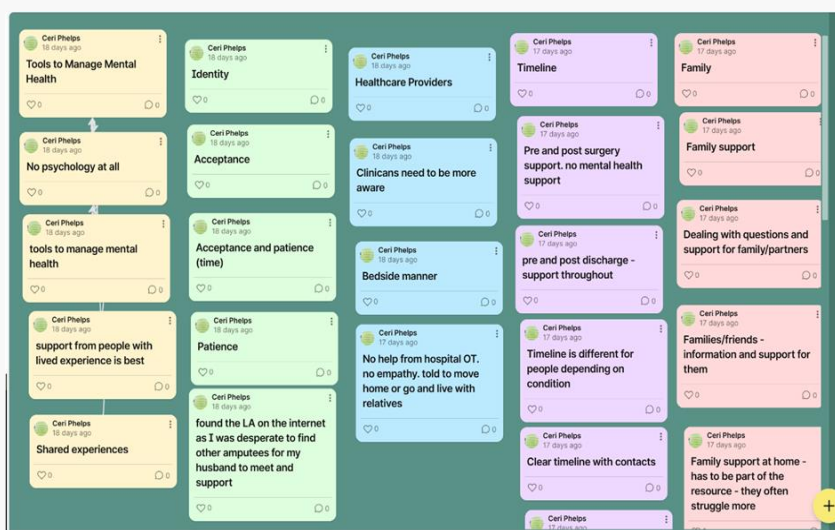


Fig 3: Initial ideas from co-production workshops

Next steps

- ❖ 3 X focus groups with amputees
- ❖ Online and in-person UX testing
- ❖ Experimental psychology studies with amputees and general population
- ❖ Engagement with HCPs

References

- Skivington, K. et al. (2021). A new framework for developing and evaluating complex interventions: update of Medical Research Council guidance. *BMJ*, 374. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.n2061>
- Yardley, L et al. (2015). The person-based approach to enhancing the acceptability and feasibility of interventions. *Pilot and Feasibility Studies*, 1,37. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40814-015-0033>
- Phelps, C., Hutchings, P.B et al. (2024). The impact of expressive prostheses on social interaction cues and attitudes of the general UK population: Two experimental studies. *Prosthetics and Orthotics International*. doi: 10.1097/PXR.0000000000000396