





INCLUSIVE **ENVIRONMENTS: DESIGNING A** FRAMEWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Professor Chantal Davies, Dr Eghosa Ekhator, Dr Kim Ross and Dr Holly White





INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS WORKSHOP AGENDA

Welcome and Outline of Workshop

The Work of the Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission (Anna Parker, Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington)

What is Environmental Justice (Dr Eghosa Ekhator, University of Derby) Introducing the
Inclusive Environments
Research and
Framework (Professor
Chantal Davies)

Utilising the Local Voices Framework and Inclusive Environments (Dr Kim Ross)

LUNCH and networking

Workshop activities

Plenary and closing

What does the term 'environmental sustainability' mean to you?

Join at vevox.app Session ID: 150-262-367



What does the term 'environmental justice' mean to you?

Join at vevox.app Session ID: 152-537-418





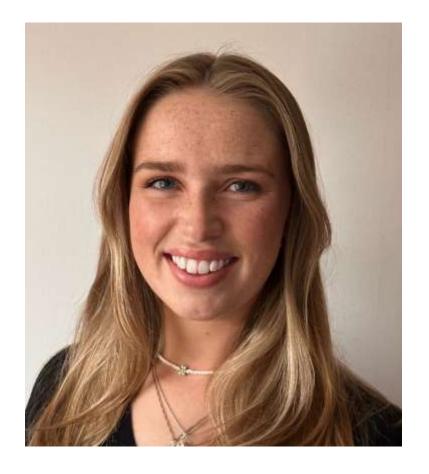
Cheshire and Warrington
Sustainable and Inclusive
Growth Commission

Sustainable & Inclusive Growth Commission

12th July 2024

Anna Parker





Net Zero and Economic Programme Officer at ECW, Graduate with the NWNZ Hub

- Co-ordination
- Monitoring
- Stakeholder engagement
- Comms



Enterprise Cheshire + Warrington



Where it started

Vision and purpose

Our ambition is to be the UK's healthiest, most sustainable, inclusive and growing economy.

The purpose of the Commission is to act as a catalyst for the delivery of a programme which will help realise this vision.

Membership





Co-Chairs



Councillor Sam Corcoran (Leader of Cheshire East Council)



Robert Davis (Chairman and CEO, EA Technology)









Focus

- Agreed roadmap to deliver decarbonisation across Cheshire and Warrington by 2050.
- Actively promote sustainable travel via active travel routes, EVs and low/zero carbon public transport
- Ensuring fundamental inequalities faced by local communities are tackled including equal opportunities, BAME and LGBTQ+ communities.
- Advise the Leaders' Board on measures required to ensure that every resident in C&W is able to secure the education and skills they need.
- Leadership role on implementation of the sub-regional Nat Cap Investment Plan and work with industry to develop proposals for the decarbonisation of agriculture.

What is the Sustainable & Inclusive Growth Commission (SIGC)?

An independent commission set up by the sub-regional Leaders Board to act as a catalyst towards sustainable & inclusive growth in Cheshire & Warrington.

PHASES:

- 1.Collate;
- 2.Plan;
- 3. Engage;
- 4. Promote.

THEMES:

- Net Zero
- Inclusive Economy
- Sustainable Transport
- Sustainable Land Use





Inclusive Economy

Vision

Increased prosperity with greater equality, creates opportunities for all, and distributes the benefits of increased prosperity fairly across the subregion.

- Ensuring all projects promoted by the Commission mainstream inclusion into policy, investment, procurement and hiring, using best practice tools for inclusivity assessment.
- Implementing a joined-up approach to inclusion in the subregion through shared initiatives such as social value (Fair Employment Charter, Anchor Networks), inclusive skills and employment, digital inclusion, and positive action.
- Creating new and collecting existing data more efficiently to identify inequalities and inform policy making, and piloting recent and new approaches such as embedding lived experience in policy.

Inclusive Economy

Key Priority Actions Following Consultation

- Adopting inclusivity assessment for projects(e.g. UK SPF)
- 2. Delivering social value, through a new fair employment charter for Cheshire and Warrington
- 3. Ensuring digital inclusion is a core part of all digital / infrastructure strategies and delivery in C&W
- Ensuring that information, advice and guidance on skills is targeted to where it is needed for levelling up (i.e. to individuals with protected characteristics and socio-economic groups such as LT unemployed, those on FSM)
- Engage with the community and voluntary sector on adoption of new policy with inclusivity implications

The subregion should ensure there is good quality and available information, advice and guidance to all who need it on decarbonisation opportunities and challenges, and how these can be addressed. *ID COMMS WORK

An inclusivity toolkit was introduced to assess proposed projects and to help to identify potential stakeholders that may be affected by the proposals.





Sustainable Transport

Vision

Target of full decarbonisation of all transport in Cheshire and Warrington by 2035, to be delivered in an inclusive way through three priority activities:

- Affordable, zero carbon, accessible and integrated public transport across the subregion
- Creating an ecosystem which makes the adoption of electric or zero emission the most cost effective and accessible means of private and business transport by 2030 where public transport is not appropriate or available;
- By making active travel an easy, clean, safe, and healthy option for all.

Sustainable Transport

Key Priority Actions Following Consultation

- 1. The public sector role in 3. Decarbonisation of supporting EV rollout, through the facilitation of rolling out public charging stations.
- 2. Establishment of multimodal transport at major interchanges in the subregion that connect all forms of public transport with accessible active travel routes.
- public transport, including fully decarbonised buses as well as a series of other possible options.

Taking on board consultee feedback, each of these key priority projects should be assessed under the following factors, engaging with key stakeholders, where relevant:

- Inclusivity (extending the use of the inclusivity toolkit)
- Behavioural change needed
- How to ensure community engagement
- Measurability and metrics





Sustainable Land Use

Vision

To make current land use net zero carbon in the subregion and unlock the sustainable economic potential of the rural area.

- Realising the potential of the rural and land use sectors to generate sustainable economic growth
- Reversing the decline of Cheshire's natural environment and biodiversity and enhance climate resilience
- Supporting producers, landowners and local authorities to increase the amount of accessible, fresh, low carbon, locally produced food.

Sustainable Land Use

Key Priority Actions Following Consultation

- 1. Ensure Cheshire and Warrington's food supply chain continues moving towards carbon zero e.g. AD and regen agri.
- 2. Encourage the subregion to increase its self-sufficiency and climate resilient food production through vertical farming.
- 3. Addressing the nature crisis via the learnings of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy to be delivered at a subregional level through a refreshed Local Nature Partnership strategy.
- 4. Encouraging pilots and initiatives at a local level looking at diet, health and behavioural change. For example, the Food Partnership continues to join up and align the wider

community food offer in line with the food for all vision and plan and Reaseheath College's 'Field to Fork' initiative.

In addition, the Commission agreed that it is important to prioritise work looking at the green skills that overlap all four of the above key priority projects.





Net Zero

Vision

To support and develop carbon reduction projects across Cheshire and Warrington while creating employment in a way that generates opportunities for all.

Housing (and building) decarbonisation and retrofit:

- Decarbonisation and retrofitting of the existing housing stock and lobbying government to speed up decarbonisation for new builds.
- Retrofitting insulation and clean energy to housing, particularly social housing and disadvantaged households.



Net Zero

Vision

Industrial decarbonisation:

 Building the UK's first net zero industrial cluster which can act as a blueprint for industrial decarbonisation, enabling us to export our skills and expertise around the world.

Circular economy:

 Developing a whole system circular approach to resource management including design, production, waste collection, disposal and recycling, energy distribution and anaerobic digestion.

Net Zero

Key Priority Actions Following Consultation

- Retrofitting insulation and clean energy to housing, particularly for disadvantaged households. Lobby government for consistent longerterm funding for housing retrofit schemes.
- On green skills:
 - Work with industry and education providers to ensure that there are appropriate education and training programmes in place to support an industrial decarbonisation workforce.
 - Work with the ECW to develop the skills needed for building retrofit and decarbonisation across the social housing, private housing rental and commercial sectors
- Our economic model of make, use, and dispose needs to change to a circular, more sustainable, system where products can be repaired, reused and recycled using fewer raw materials.
- Lobby Government to ensure funding for the area's large hydrogen projects (e.g. HyNet) and to ensure a level playing field exists with longterm pricing support to incentivise industry to switch to low carbon.
 Support industry to establish a thriving zero carbon economy.

Promote Phase

The promote phase looked at bespoke materials for particular sectors and audiences.

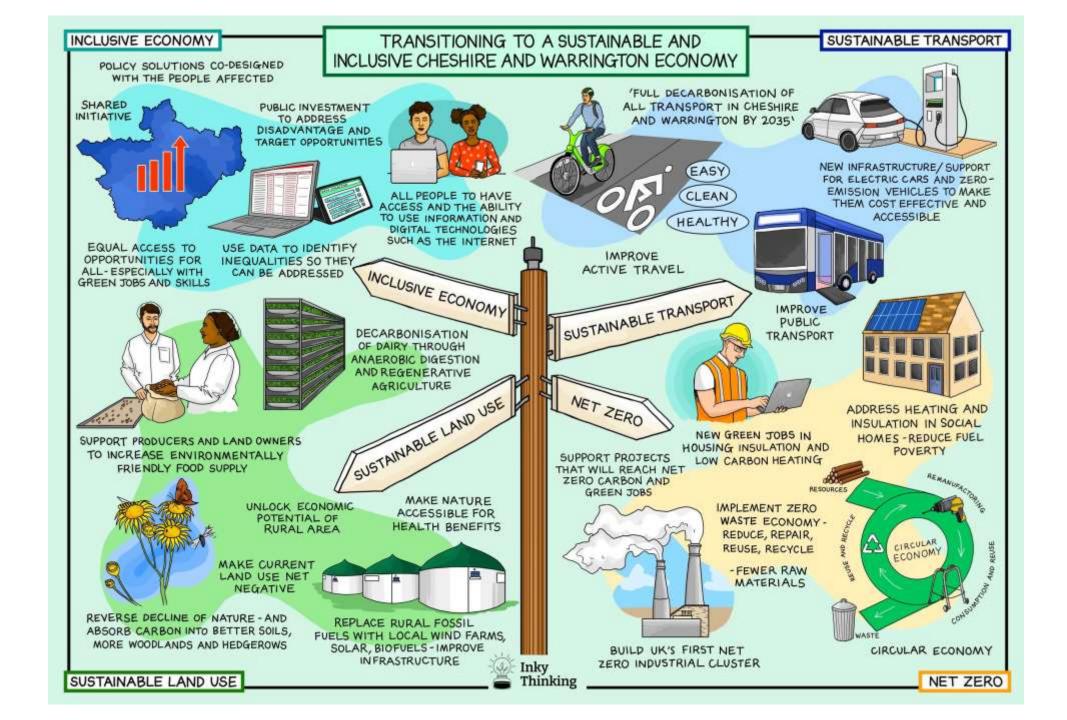
There are a range of case studies from the area that would lend themselves to communicating the commission's messages.

The following activities were undertaken in this phase:

- Finalised and published Commission Report and Summary document
- Communications Plan, with e.g. Social Media Campaign, PR, Media Engagement, Thought leadership etc
- Communications Collateral and Key Messages
- Plan and held Dissemination Event
- Implementation Planning

Monitoring phase

- Prior to the Leaders' Board meetings, our comprehensive monitoring document is updated to demonstrate progressing projects and delivery.
- Traffic light system
- Every 6 months
- Mainstreamed into our Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Plan (SIEP)
- Developing projects with funding from the Hub (DESNZ)
- Ongoing development of business plans/cases e.g. AD





Cheshire and Warrington
Sustainable and Inclusive
Growth Commission

Thank you!





What is Environmental Justice?

Dr Eghosa Ekhator



What is Environmental Justice?

In different parts of the world, some people enjoy prosperity, good life, well-being and a plethora of benefits accruing from living in a good environment.

On the other hand, 'while for others the environment is a source of threat and risk, and access to resources such as energy, water and greenspace is limited or curtailed.' (Walker 2012, page 1).

Environmental justice encapsulates the concerns around environmental inequality, environmental injustices and power dynamics in environmental decision-making amongst others.

Thus, environmental justice 'have been used in many different ways – as a campaigning slogan, as a description of a field of academic research, as a policy principle, as an agenda and as a name given to a political movement. '(Walker 2012, page 1).

The earliest academic reflections on environmental justice originally focused on the existence of inequity in the distribution of environmental bads. The concept was used to illustrate that some communities received more environmental risks than others". (Schlosberg, page 38, 2013)

Environmental justice is a new paradigm for achieving healthy and sustainable environment or communities.

The usage of the term environmental justice can be traced to the USA in the 1980s. (Coolsaet 2021, page 2)

Defining Environmental Justice

- Defining environmental justice is not a straightforward or an easy task. EJ means different things to different people.
- >There are multiple definitions of environmental justice
- The significance of the doctrine varies depending on the context or the country in focus.
- As highlighted in earlier slides, Environmental Justice originated from the movement to prevent people of colour in the United States from becoming victims of industrial pollution.
- However, it is now applied to a widening spectrum of serious social concerns, particularly those related to communities that suffer from social inequity attributed to environmental inequalities. (Ako 2009, p 291).

Theoretical models of dimensions of environmental justice

There are different theoretical models or dimensions of environmental justice conceptualized by scholars and NGOs. According to Walker (2012, page 10), the three recurrent themes consist of EJ consists of distributive, procedural, and recognition elements are referred as the "three concepts of justice".

Distributive justice is when 'justice is conceived in terms of the distribution or sharing out of goods (resources) and bads (harm and risk).'

(Walker 2012, page 10).

Procedural justice is when 'justice is conceived in terms of the ways in which decisions are made, who is involved and has influence.' (Walker 2012, page 10).

Recognition justice is when 'justice is conceived in terms of who is given respect and who is and isn't valued. (Walker 2012, page 10).



On the other hand, Gonzalez (2012, page 78-79) adopts a four-part categorisation of 'environmental justice consisting of distributive justice, procedural justice, corrective and social justice. Distributive justice calls for the fair allocation of the benefits and burdens of natural resource exploitation among and within nations. Procedural justice requires open, informed, and inclusive decision-making processes. Corrective justice imposes an obligation to provide compensation for historic inequities and to refrain from repeating the conduct that caused harm. Social justice, the fourth and most nebulous aspect of environmental justice, recognises that environmental struggles are inextricably intertwined with struggles for social and economic justice.



Environmental Justice in the UK

There have been numerous studies conducted showing the injustices that British citizens have to face, be that nationally with the stereotypical north-south divide' to the almost internal issues inside counties and even cities.

Environmental Justice in the United Kingdom is relatively new compared to the United States.

This trend has however changed in recent times as increasingly; environmental injustice has been shown to exist in Britain more deeply and frequently than previously assumed.

According to Agyeman, it has been shown to be happening in many different ways from disproportionate pollution loadings to fuel poverty from transportation inequalities to lack of countryside because of rural racism, in response to this, calls for greater environmental justice has become louder. This has led to greater policy awareness for environmental justice in the UK.

Environmental justice is tool or framework that can used to mitigate injustices. Thus, the environmental justice toolkit we developed is can be tool to improve access to environmental justice in environmental impact assessment in the UK



Introducing the Inclusive Environments Research and Framework

Professor Chantal Davies



INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS: THE RESEARCH

Why?

- Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission Report 2022 recommendations
- > Embedded environmental inequalities
- >Inconsistent approaches towards environmental sustainability decision making

Where?

➤ Cheshire and Warrington Subregion

Who for?

- **≻**Communities
- > Public sector organisations
- > Private sector organisations
- **≻**Community stakeholders

Who with?

- > Marginalised community voices
- ➤ Public and private sector decision makers

Key findings: defining environmental sustainability and environmental justice

It's simply getting to the point where we are no longer degrading the environment...and we are working in concert with the resources that we have available to us rather than exceeding them and degrading that environment.

Sustainability for us has many angles...we need environmental sustainability...we need economic sustainability...we need sustainability for our businesses as a whole and our people.

Those that are producing and consuming more...are probably the ones that can find a way to mitigate the impact or are not as vulnerable to those impacts.

- Environmental sustainability and environmental justice difficult to define
- Environmental justice seen as a global rather than local issue
- In spite of lack of consistent definition, clear importance of environmental sustainability and environmental justice

Key findings: concerns and challenges to environmental sustainability

- ➤ Need for greater environmental consciousness
- ➤ Media attention on climate issues short lived
- Lack of awareness of wider social, health and economic impact of climate crisis
- Perception government have not adequately addressed environmental issues and poor communication re local issues

It seems to only
be the things that
visitors can see
that they focus
on...they ignore
hidden issues

Key findings: marginalised communities and environmental justice

- Recognition that marginalised communities are more vulnerable to the impact of the environmental crisis AND environmental sustainability decisions
- ➤ Focusing spending on environmental sustainability could take away from much needed support for those impacted by cost-of-living crisis
- Marginalised groups may struggle to adopt more sustainable practices due to high cost/lack of access to resources e.g.:
 - Cost of environmentally friendly products
 - Lack of recycling facilities and inefficient public transport

Certain communities are more vulnerable than others...those communities may not have the adaptive capacity to be able to adapt their properties or adapt how this live in order to mitigate that impact.

There's access to EV infrastructure in higher income communities and not in lower income communities...so we're kind of shackling lower income communities to fossil fuel resources.

Key findings: the need for an environmental justice framework

- There is a need for a localised environmental justice framework focusing on better community engagement and better understanding of environmental impacts.
- Existing organisational approaches should be built upon to ensure buy in and focus.
- Communities should be treated as 'partners' when decision are being made that affect them and their environment.

- Funding and resources are needed to help develop community resilience and understanding around environmental sustainability.
- ➤ Greater understanding of environmental inequalities by public/private sector needed in order to mitigate negative impacts and develop meaningful coproduced solutions.

Inclusive Environments: core recommendations

Development of a community engagement hub to help facilitate better public/private sector engagement with community voices

Development of an accessible and interactive environmental impacts map to help raise awareness of environmental justice and related issues.

Use of findings to inform wider national policy.

Development of a range of resources that public and private sector organisations can use to help embed co-production in environmental decision making.

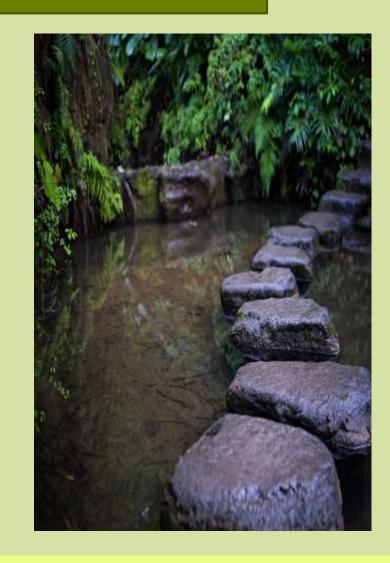
Inclusive Environments Framework: overriding purpose

To centre communities in providing expertise on environmental impacts and suggesting just solutions.

To ensure that environmental sustainability decisions and policy do not exacerbate existing inequalities.

INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS FRAMEWORK: 9 STEPS TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE





INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS FRAMEWORK: BENEFITS OF USE

Social, legal and Builds on existing EqIA Compliance with Promotion of Public Sector Equality financial benefits community benefits Duty compliance equality legislation approaches Systemic understanding of Improved community Break down knowledge Improved sustainability Reputational benefits impact of trust and confidence literacy silos environmental sustainability decisions Community centered Improved viability of identification of Community 'buy in' environmental sustainable measures problem and solution

INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS WORKSHOP

Purpose of workshop:

- Introduce Inclusive Environments Research and Framework beyond Cheshire and Warrington
- Explore emerging dialogue around 'environmental justice' and 'environmental inequalities'
- ➤ Get feedback on the draft Inclusive Environments Framework from stakeholders across Derby city, Derbyshire and the East Midlands
- Develop sustainable networks with stakeholders as potential users of the Inclusive Environments Framework
- Share the principles of co-production which have underpinned the development of the Inclusive Environments Framework



Utilising the Local Voices Framework and Inclusive Environments

Dr Kim Ross and Dr Holly White



Local Voices Framework



<u>Systematic literature review of academic</u> <u>databases:</u> clear logical stages with an emphasis on rigour.

Review of Local Voices Stakeholder Team
Seminal Guides: drawing together existing knowledge and practice

<u>15 1.5 hour semi-structured interviews – 9 with experts</u> <u>by experience and 6 with practitioners:</u> detailed reflections on co-production experiences

2 x 2.5 hour workshops with experts by experience and practitioners: collective developments of key ideas and language around co-production

Power & Influence

At one end of the continuum is influence moving to power sharing, interdependency, and a movement of equal partners

Contribution

"customers as innovators"	"citizens know things that many professionals don't know"
"customers as	citizens "can make a service more effective by the extent to which
critical success factors"	they go along with its requirements and scrutinise it"
"customers as resources"	citizens "have time, information and financial resources that they
	are willing to invest to improve their own quality of life and into
	helping others"
"customers as asset-holders"	citizens "have diverse capabilities and talents which they can share
	with professionals and other citizens"
"customers as community-	citizens "can engage in collaborative rather than paternalistic relationships
developers"	with staff and can collaborate with other service users and with other
	members of the public to bring out the best in them"

Local Voices Framework Co-production Definition

Co-production is the building of respectful and empowering relationships alongside the sharing of ideas between those with lived experience and other stakeholders. Both contribute their knowledge, skills and experiences to co-create actionable change. Co-production is a challenging process that requires reflection and dedication to ongoing collective learning.





Aspirations

"trying to maintain all principles of co-production within the real-world of structural inequalities and uneven distribution of resources is a constant challenge, often remaining for now in the realm of aspiration" (Farr et al, 2021, p. 1).

Principles of Co-production

- 1. Co-production should be embedded from the beginning to the end of the project when possible.
- 2. Co-production needs to be rooted in the structure of organisations.
- 3. Co-production should be an accessible opportunity, where difference between people is valued and respected, and practices are inclusive.
- 4. Co-production should be underpinned by trusting, respectful, and empowering relationships.

- 5. Co-production should be based on honesty and transparency.
- 6. Support should be made available for those with lived experience and other stakeholders who are involved with co-production.
- 7. Co-production should be an ongoing and collaborative learning process
- 8. Co-production should be recognised as a social movement

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3. Promote Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Co-production should be an accessible opportunity, where difference between people is valued and respected, and practices are inclusive.

Community groups emphasised the need for diverse engagement opportunities.

Some groups that are significantly impacted by environmental policy may find engagement challenging.

5. Foster Open & Transparent Communication

Co-production should be based on honesty and transparency.

Community groups identified mistrust as a key issue to be overcome with regards to environmental policies.

Education was seen as being crucial to this in order to help communities understand why certain actions may need to be taken.

7. Learn, Reflect & Adapt with Partners

Co-production should be an ongoing and collaborative learning process.

Reflexivity was seen as a key in helping to ensure that communities understand how their feedback is being used.

Setting up infrastructure that allows for ongoing collaboration is was identified by the community groups as being a key priority.



LUNCH





WORKSHOP DISCUSSION







Question 1 What do the terms 'environmental sustainability' and 'environmental justice' mean to you?



Question 2 What examples of 'environmental inequalities' have you come across within your own context?



15 MINUTES

Question 3 What do you think about the draft Inclusive Environments Framework? Are the steps appropriate? Is there anything you would change/add?





Question 3 What do you think about the Inclusive **Environments** Framework? Are the steps appropriate? Is there anything you would change/add?



15 MINUTES

Question 4 What do you think might be the barriers to use of the draft Inclusive Environments Framework? How can these be overcome?



Question 4
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might be the barriers to
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FEEDBACK AND NEXT STEPS



What one thing will you take away from this workshop?

Join at vevox.app Session ID: 140-123-928



Join at vevox.app Session ID: 149-961-313



Inclusive Environments feedback questionnaire

Next steps

- Review of Inclusive Environments
 Framework based on workshop and focus groups
- Publication of Inclusive Environments
 Framework (September 2024)
- Sharing of Inclusive Environments Framework
- Follow up of impact



Useful links and contact

- Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission
- Local Voices Framework
- Professor Chantal Davies
 (<u>Chantal.davies@chester.ac.uk</u>)
- Dr Eghosa Ekhator (<u>E.Ekhator@derby.ac.uk</u>)
- Dr Kim Ross (kim.ross@chester.ac.uk)