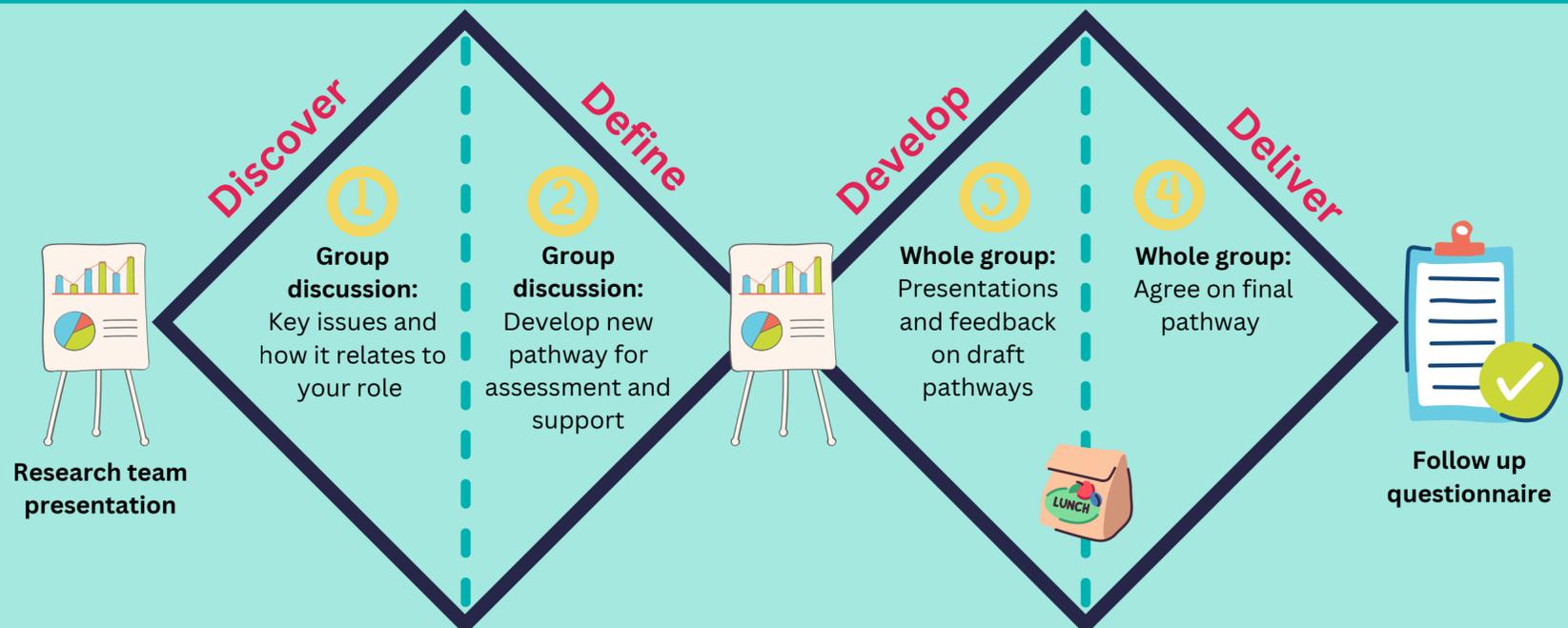


Working together to design a new pathway for DCD assessment and support

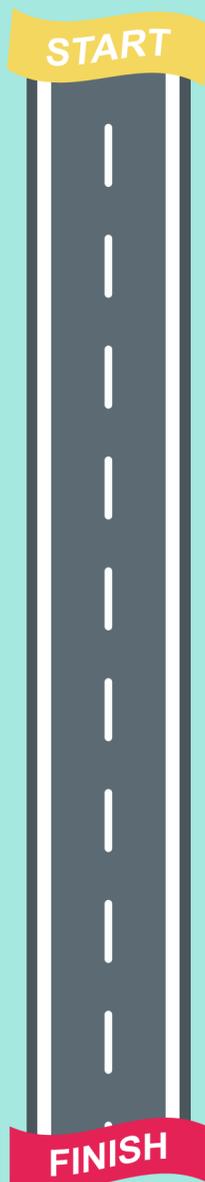
Dr Lucy Eddy, Cara Staniforth, Maryam Shuaib, Nell Schofield, Nat Merrick, Jade Jukes, & Dr Rebecca Murray

What did we do?

Research has shown that pathways for assessing and supporting DCD are complex and not fit for purpose. In January 2025, we hosted a co-production workshop to develop a new pathway for DCD assessment and support. Thirteen participants attended including self-reported lived experience (parent and young person), as well as healthcare and education professionals involved in supporting motor development. The workshop followed four stages as outlined below. The study was approved by the University of Bradford Ethics Committee (ref: E1026).



What did they design?



- 1 Universal assessment**
Every child is assessed in schools or community hubs
- 2 Universal intervention**
Every child receives intervention from schools, families and community groups
- 3 Universal re-assessment**
Every child is assessed again to see whether progress has been made
- 4 School referral to NHS services**
Children that scored worse than 95% of children the same age after universal intervention referred into Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy
- 5 Targeted support**
Interventions with specialist teachers and school nurses whilst waiting for NHS assessment
- 6 NHS assessment**
Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy assessment with judgement about whether they suspect DCD sent to the Paediatrician
- 7 Diagnosis by exclusion**
Paediatrician assessment to rule out any other diagnoses and decide whether to diagnose DCD

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What is next?

More research is now needed to understand if this new pathway works in practice.