How to make co-development of technology accessible for people living with dementia and their family members: Lessons from the Florence Project.

**Background and aims**: People living with dementia have a long history of being excluded from contributing to research, and are affected by stereotypical assumptions about their likely willingness and capacity to use technology. This has limited the development of appropriate technology for this community. The Florence Project aims to co-develop technology (and the related research) with lived experience experts: People living with dementia and their care partners. As an initial step, it was clear that traditional board meeting or workshop approaches would not be suitable, and an approach to co-development that was accessible and acceptable needed to be developed.

**Finding/Results/Outcome:** People living with dementia and their care partners were sought to form a Lived Experience Expert Reference Group. At present 6 people living with dementia and 10 care partners form the group. During initial consultation, they were asked about their perspectives on technology, the project, and how their participation could be optimised. Consultation with lived experience experts occurred in various settings and through media they requested including home visits, campus meetings, video-conferencing, telephone and email.

In combining their feedback, co-development requires the following aspects to be accessible for people living with dementia and their care partners:

* Flexibility in communication, time, place and roles for participation.
* Supportive locations and people, recognising the needs and demands of group members’ various roles.
* Payment and recognition
* Access to information and findings.

The recommendations and experiences of the Lived Experience Expert Reference Group from the Florence Project may assist others in developing co-development approaches.

Word count: 249