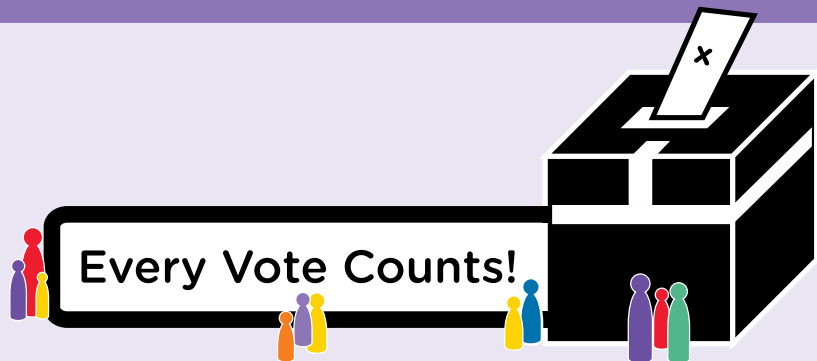
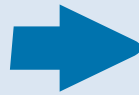




How politics affects your life



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Politics affects lots of things in your life.



We elect **politicians** who make decisions about laws and rules which affect nearly every area of your life.



They make decisions about things like schools, transport, work and benefits.



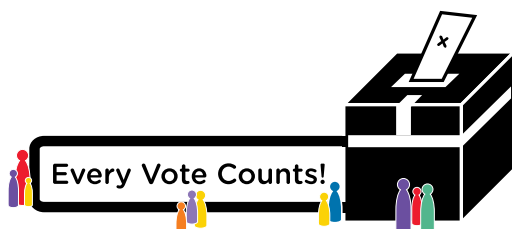
The laws politicians make tell people what they should or should not do.



Most laws are made by politicians who are elected to Parliament.



This booklet is one of three **Every Vote Counts** booklets.



Every Vote Counts is a campaign to make politics easier to understand for everyone.

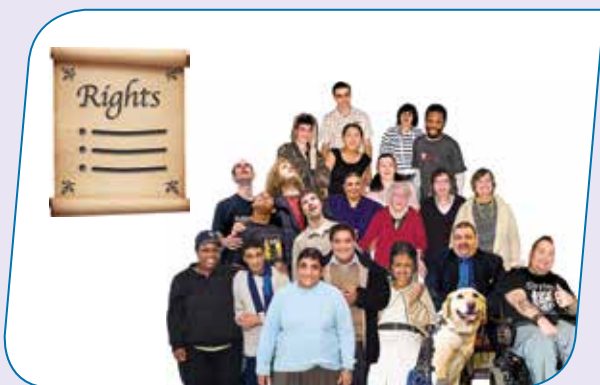


This booklet explains some of the ways that politics affects your life.

Your rights



Parliament makes laws which give all people rights. These are some of the rights which might be important to you.



There are laws which say that disabled people have the same rights as non-disabled people. You can complain if you are not treated in the same way as everyone else.



You have the right to be safe. There are laws which say you should not be hurt or bullied.



You should not have to leave somewhere because of a disability. The law says that new buildings should be accessible and old buildings should try to be accessible.



You have the right to be in a relationship with the person you choose.



For example, the Government have changed the law so that people of the same sex can make their relationships official if they want to.

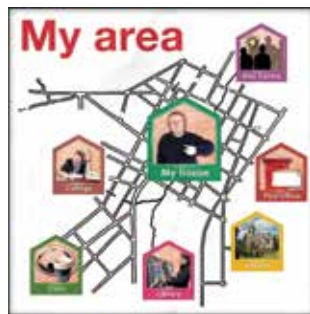


You have rights at work. An employer should not treat you badly because of your disability.



You have the right to be listened to. You can tell politicians about things that matter to you.

Where you live



Politics can affect where you live and what your community is like.



Local politicians are called **councillors**. They make decisions which affect your local community.



Councillors might decide what kind of housing is built in your area, like houses, flats or bungalows.



They also make decisions about how to make your area safe. They might choose things like how many police officers are in your area.



Politics can affect what you can do in your area. Councillors make decisions about places like libraries, colleges and day centres.



Councillors can decide how much things like council tax, council rent and parking cost. This affects how much it costs to live in your area.

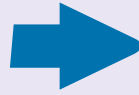


Politics can even affect how clean your community is. Bin collections are decided by local politicians.



Transport is affected by politics too. Councillors can make decisions about how accessible transport is.

Where you go



Politics can also affect the places you can go to.



Politicians decide how old you have to be before you can buy alcohol in a pub. They also decide how long pubs can stay open.



Local councils employ people who inspect places that sell food and drink. They make sure that the food you buy is safe to eat.



Politics affects your shopping too. Politicians decide how much tax you pay for different things.



Your local council decides how late nightclubs are able to stay open. They can close a nightclub if it is too noisy.



Your local leisure centre is affected by politics. Councillors decide how much it costs to go there and what you can do.



When you go on holiday abroad, you need a passport from the Government.



If you have serious problems on holiday you can go to the consulate or embassy for help. They are run by the Government.

What you do



Politics can affect what you do.



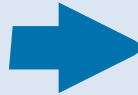
The Government can make sure that college courses are accessible to everyone. For example, it can make sure that people get one-to-one support or documents in braille or easy read.



Local councils can decide to give someone a **direct payment** if they need care and support. It means that people can make decisions about their own care.



Local councils make decisions about how much money is provided for services like day centres.



Politics affects work in lots of ways.



Politicians make decisions about benefits for people who are not working. They also make decisions about the kinds of extra support you can get at work if you need it.

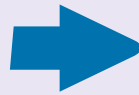


There are laws which say you should be treated fairly at work and not bullied. There are laws which say you should be paid a minimum wage for your work.



If you work or are a volunteer, your employer must look after you at work. There are laws about things like health and safety to protect you at work.

Health



Politics affects your health in lots of ways.



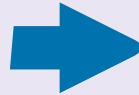
The Government makes lots of decisions about which medicines are available through the health service.



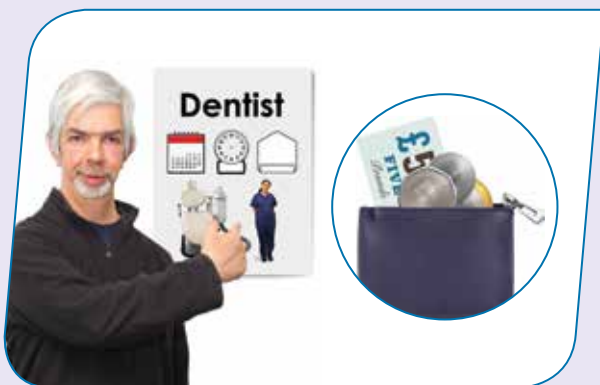
The Government also decides how many hospitals there are in England.



The Government makes decisions about the numbers of doctors, nurses, dentists and other NHS staff there are.



The Government can influence how long you have to wait for a doctor's appointment or hospital appointment.



The Government also decides which treatments are free through the health service.

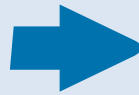


This might be an operation or medication or getting physiotherapy.



The Government decides how much a prescription costs and who has to pay for them.

Talking about politics



Politics affects lots of different things in your life.



This booklet tells you about just a few examples of how it can make a difference to your life. There are lots of others.



Talking with other people can help you think about how politics affects your life.



You might want to talk about the different things you do each day and how they are affected by politics.



You might want to talk about things you enjoy doing in the local community. How does politics affect these things?



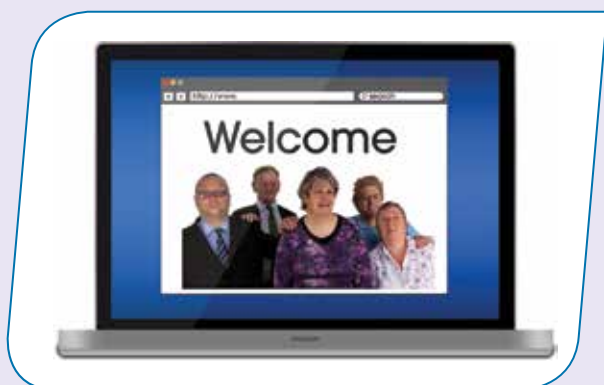
What other issues are important to you? Talking about what is happening in the news and how you feel about it may help you with this.



The accessible news magazine **Easy News** can help you with this. To find out more go to www.unitedresponse.org.uk/easy-news



You could also talk about the things you want to do in the future. How does politics affect these things?



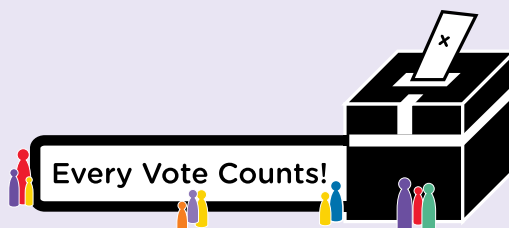
If you would like to find out more about how politics affects your life, go to **www.everyvotecounts.org.uk**



There are three booklets in the **Every Vote Counts** series.



If you would like to read the other booklets, you can download them at **www.unitedresponse.org.uk/every-vote-counts-resources**



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