

Getting Involved in the **Election 2015** research project

Easy Read Report

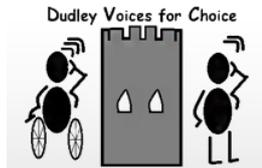
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Research Project. The University of
Wolverhampton.

Who we are



WIDeN



Dudley Voices for Choice



Friends 2 Friends Lichfield



Building Bridges Training



The University of
Wolverhampton supported
this research project

What is this report about?



This report is about the
research project we did about
the 2015 UK General Election



This Report was prepared using
Photosymbols ©.

Why we did this research



To include people with learning disabilities in politics more



Because fewer people with learning disabilities are registered to vote



Because there has been prejudice towards voters with disabilities

Prejudice is an unfair dislike of something or of a group of people.



To raise awareness to improve political rights and support Article 29 of the UNCRPD, 'Participation in political and public life'

UNCRPD



This means the United Nation Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability. It is an agreement that each country signs up to, to say they will look after the rights of people with disabilities

We wanted to find out



What local and national things people with a learning disability say are important?



What changes would people with a learning disability like to see the next government make after the 2015 election?



What people with a learning disability think about the information about the 2015 election and about voting?

How we did the Research Project



Groups from the West Midlands were supported to look at the election information



We did 7 focus groups and 4 interviews with 37 people with a learning disability and 3 interviews with supporters about:



- Their thoughts and awareness of political parties, policies, the elections and voting



- What issues were important to them and what policy makers and the new government should do



Interview recordings were recorded, typed up then the information was sorted into the different issues

What we found out



The main things people talked about were:



How hard we found it to talk to MPs and councilors, to understand politics and to vote



If we can trust our MPs



Benefit cuts



Changes in health care



Our community safety and getting support



Being treated fairly by everyone

Key Issue: Voting, understanding politics and talking to MPs



We need support to understand about voting and how to vote.



Some of us were frustrated because:



There is too much information and this is confusing



Easy read manifestos and information were produced too close to the elections



A manifesto is what each political party says they will change and do if they win the election

We need time and support to understand the manifestos before the election happens



Having more than one election at once is very confusing

Key Issue: Trusting our MPs



MPs need to explain things more clearly



We do not always trust what MPs say



Because they do not do what they say they will



We think they do not listen to us enough



We think that MPs do not think that people with learning disabilities are important

Key Issue: Benefit Cuts



Many of us only have our benefit money to pay for everything



But disability benefits are being changed.
This means some of us get less money and this can take away our independence



We worry about being stopped for not doing what the JobCentre Plus say, and having our benefits cut



We worry about not being able to buy important things we need, like food and electric credit



We worry about losing our homes



We are angry that rich people keep getting richer while poor people struggle

Key Issue: Health Care



We sometimes have a lot of health problems



Healthcare can be good if staff listen to us



Healthcare could be better for us and health staff could listen to us better



We want good healthcare



We worry about changes in the NHS and what these changes would mean for us

Key Issue: Community Safety and Getting Support



We are worried about:



Being victimised and bullied in our communities because we have a learning disability



Fewer police on the street

This makes us feel less safe

We want more police about so we feel safer.



Many small local shops in our communities are closing



Local councils and services do not have the money to support us as well as they used to

Key Issue: Being treated fairly in Society



We think that people with learning disabilities are not always treated fairly:



We do not have enough support and training to help us get a job
Lots of college courses have stopped



Local services sometimes do not support us well or listen to us properly



We do not get enough help:



Claiming our benefits



Getting bus passes



Managing our money, banking and paying our bills

What we think needs to happen in future elections



Get Easy Read manifestos ready earlier



People with learning disabilities should help to make the manifestos



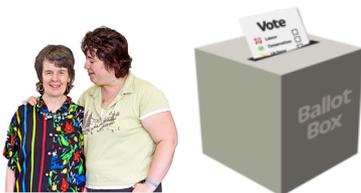
We need MPs to:

Communicate information more clearly



Listen more to people with learning disabilities

Keep their promises and do what they say they will



There needs to be more support to help us to vote



We need more support to live independently in our own homes



We want it to be easier to get a doctor's appointment at short notice. We need more doctors and walk-in clinics
We need more dentists



We want more police on the streets so we feel safer walking
Stop people carrying knives, and stop anti-social behaviour



We want local shops and services to stay in our communities



The JobCentre Plus should help us to find a job, instead of making us find them on our own.



We need help to get our bus passes



We need more help managing our money, banking and paying bills.

Who wrote this report and took part in this research project



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Other research we used to write this report

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