

Judging the Political Parties

On 2nd April LDA England will measure how well each political party is going to defend the rights of people with learning disabilities in the future.



We will publish the results and encourage people to use this information to decide how they should vote in the General Election in May.



What should councils do to make sure people with a learning disability can vote?

Don't forget that, under your public duty in relation to disability equality, the public sector must adopt an approach that actively promotes greater equality for disabled people writes Lynn James-Jenkinson.

The deadline to register to vote in the general election is 20 April 2015. (www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

Everyone can vote

Lucy Series, a researcher at the Centre for Health and Social Care Law at Cardiff Law School, writes:

"Spread the word – you don't need mental capacity to vote. This is a common misconception but it is, not to put too fine a point on it, rubbish. And it's not just any old rubbish, it's rubbish that has the potential to prevent people from exercising a fundamental human right. Everybody has the right to vote, regardless of their mental capacity."

(<http://learningdisabilityalliance.org>)

With a special thanks to Inclusion North, included here is information about resources to help people with the registering to and voting.

Things you can do with your local group



United Response, Every Vote Counts website

The website has fantastic easy read information, stories and videos about voting



- They can send you their election planner to use
- You can sign up to get Easy News for free
- You can sign up to get Community Living magazine for free and read their monthly column on democracy

www.everyvotecounts.org.uk



Dimensions, Love Your Vote

They'll come and put on a Love Your Vote event so you can ask questions about how to vote

<http://www.dimensions-uk.org/get-involved/love-your-vote-get-involved/>

With a special thanks to Inclusion North, included here is information about resources to help people with the registering to and voting.

**ARCUK, Your Voice Your Vote**

They are piloting meetings to give people the chance to meet people from the main political parties, and find out what they are promising to do

<http://arcuk.org.uk/blog/your-voice-your-vote-enabling-the-people-you-support-to-vote/>

**Mencap, Hear My Voice**

They have lots of great resources to help you campaign locally

<http://www.mencap.org.uk/hearmyvoice>

**Parliamentary Outreach team**

They will deliver free training to organisations or individuals based in the UK who want to know more about the UK Parliament

<http://www.parliament.uk/get-involved/outreach-and-training/training/>

With a special thanks to Inclusion North, included here is information about resources to help people with the registering to and voting.

The
Electoral
Commission

Electoral Commission, About My Vote website

They help make sure people understand it is important to register to vote, and know how to vote

www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

outside
the box

Outside the Box, Our Vote Our Voice

Scottish based organisation who deliver peer training to groups in Scotland about elections by people with learning disabilities

<http://www.otbds.org/ourvoteourvoice/>

**Speaking Up**, Promote the Vote website

Fantastic website with films and information about voting that you can share with your group

www.promotethevote.co.uk

With a special thanks to Inclusion North, included here is information about resources to help people with the registering to and voting.

Things that other areas have done that might be helpful



Gloucester Voices, How to vote film

This film covers a workshop at the Guildhall in Gloucester on 17th April 2013 looking at politics and how to vote ahead of the 2nd May 2013 County Council elections.

Over 80 people attended the day that was organised by Stroud-based Gloucestershire Voices with help from theatre company Moveable Feast and Philip Booth who works with BasicNeeds, working with inclusion and people with learning disabilities.

<http://stroudcommunity.tv/how-to-vote-people-with-a-learning-disability-look-at-voting/>



Easy read voting guides:

London:

Wandsworth Council, voting guide in MAKATON

With a special thanks to Inclusion North, included here is information about resources to help people with the registering to and voting.



Learning
Disability
Alliance
England

Everything you need to know about voting



<http://goo.gl/Zz9chV>



South West:

Plymouth Council, easy read Right to Vote guide (aimed at young people but provides a clear guide to the voting process)

http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/school_election_book_4web.pdf

North West:

Stockport Council, voting rights fact sheets

<http://goo.gl/ujLunP>



Local Campaigning:

Harrow Mencap, Get My Vote campaign
Focussed on the local and European elections

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Harrow-Mencap/191677064210405>

With a special thanks to Inclusion North, included here is information about resources to help people with the registering to and voting.

March 2015

Support to understand the European elections

Inclusion London

Promoting Equality For London's
Deaf and Disabled People

Inclusion London, 2014 Elections guide for deaf and disabled people's organisations

Information pack to support deaf and disabled people's organisations understanding of the 2014 local and European elections

<http://www.inclusionlondon.co.uk/2014-UK-Local-and-European-Elections-22-May>



Inclusion Europe

Website detailing all you need to know about the European elections, who the main political parties are, and what they stand for

<http://www.e-include.eu/votingforall/en/take-action/inclusion-europe-members>

With a special thanks to Inclusion North, included here is information about resources to help people with the registering to and voting.