

Issue Number 197

Election Special 22nd November 2019



In this bulletin you will hear about the General Election and where you can find information



General Election 12th December 2019

We now know there will be a General Election on 12th December 2019.

A General Election is when we vote for who we want to represent us in Parliament.

We vote for our local Member of Parliament (MP). The political party that gets the most number of MPs elected gets to run the country.

At the moment the Conservative Party is the political party that is the Government that runs the country.

There are many political parties that you can vote for like Labour, Liberal Democrats and Green Party.

Depending where you live, you will have a choice of a few people from different political parties to vote for.





Understanding the election

Mencap have already produced an Easy Read guide that has everything you need to know about the election.

It has sections on

- What is voting?
- Registering to vote
- Voting in person, by post or by proxy
- Important dates
- What some of the different words mean

You can find it here <https://bit.ly/32yXzZm>

For more information contact Mencap

email: campaigns@mencap.org.uk Telephone: 0207 696 6009

Registering to vote

It is really important that you are registered to vote.

If you are not registered you will not be able to vote.

You need to register every time you move house.

The last date you can register to vote is midnight on 26th November.

There is an Easy Read guide on registering to vote here

<https://bit.ly/36U33lc>

There is more Easy Read information on registering to vote here

<https://bit.ly/37g2uC5>

People living in England can register to vote online at

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote



Knowing who to vote for



It is not always easy to know who to vote for.

Each political party will produce a **manifesto**. This is a document that says what they will do to help the country if they win the election.



We are trying to get copies of all the manifestos in Easy Read.

This is the link to the one we have got so far is

The Green Party <http://bit.ly/2KE90sZ>



The links to the ones that will be ready soon are

The Labour Party <http://bit.ly/2QGYfcT>

The Liberal Democrats <http://bit.ly/35pU0Xg>

We will let you know when we have more information about the other manifestos.



Dimensions have produced an Easy Read guide about why it is important that you vote, and how to make the right choice for yourself who to vote for



Read it here <https://bit.ly/2qfklZx>

Voting in person – where is your nearest polling station?



One way of voting is to go to your local Polling Station.

A Polling Station is a building that is set up on the day of the election where people go to vote.

Sometimes it is a local school or community centre.

There is a website to help you know where your polling station is.

Find it here <https://bit.ly/35aZkOj>

You just need to know your postcode.

Once you have put that in, you can also click a link and it will tell you who you can vote for in your area



Dimensions have produced a Voting Passport that you can download and fill in and take with you to your polling station to help staff there know how to support you.

Find it here <https://bit.ly/379TUou>



Bradford Council have produced a guide about what to expect on the day when you go and vote. It has useful information for everyone – not just people who live there.



You can find it here <https://bit.ly/32YtOBE>

Voting by post



You have the choice to vote by post instead of going to a Polling Station.

If you want to do this you have to register for a Postal Vote.



You have to register for a postal vote by 5pm on 26th November 2019.

To do this you need to get in touch with your local Electoral Services Team at your local authority and say you would like to vote by post.



They will send you a form to fill out.



To find out how to contact your local Electoral Services Team you can type in your postcode on the Electoral Commission website and it will give you the name, address and telephone number of who to talk to at your council

This is their website <https://bit.ly/2CZaIGs>



All the instructions for registering to vote by post are in the Mencap guide to the election which you can download here

<https://bit.ly/32yXzZm>



This guide also explains what a postal vote looks like and how to fill it in.

Voting by proxy



Voting by proxy means that you choose someone to vote for you.

The important thing is that you tell them who you want to vote for. They just help with the practical bit of voting. They don't decide for you. They don't vote instead of you. They follow your wishes and vote for the person you tell them to.



You have to register to vote by proxy by 5pm on 4th December 2019.

To do this you need to get in touch with your local Electoral Services Team at your local authority and say you would like to vote by proxy.

They will send you a form to fill out.



To find out how to contact your local Electoral Services Team you can type in your postcode on the Electoral Commission website and it will give you the name, address and telephone number of who to talk to at your council



This is their website <https://bit.ly/2CZalGs>



All the instructions for registering to vote by proxy are in the Mencap guide to the election which you can download here

<https://bit.ly/32yXzZm>



You have to have a good reason to have a proxy vote.

You might be asked for a professional to support your application for a proxy vote.



Policy Update and other useful information

Every month Inclusion North puts together some policy updates. You will find lots of useful information including:



- Changes in Policy
- Training opportunities
- Blogs
- Resources And lots more.....

You can find all the information here

<https://inclusionnorth.org/november-policy-update/>

This information is not in easy read as it is written for our local authority and clinical commissioning group members.



Inclusion North Member Areas 2019 – 20



Yorkshire and the Humber

Barnsley

Bradford

Calderdale

Doncaster

Kirklees

Leeds

North Yorkshire

Wakefield



North East

Darlington

Durham

Gateshead

Hartlepool

Newcastle

North Tyneside

Northumberland

Redcar and Cleveland

South Tyneside

Stockton

Sunderland

