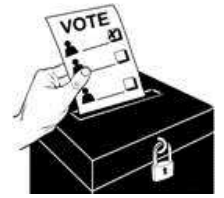




Voting Workshop Notes and Feedback December 2014



We thought the workshop held by the Partnership Board at County Hall was very good. We liked meeting



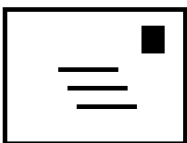
- Clare from the Houses of Parliament
- Amanda from Mencap
- Neil and Andrea from Electoral Services



Some of us thought we had to pay Council Tax to be able to vote. We found out this isn't right. If you are over 18 you can vote. You can register to vote when you are 17. You register to vote as an individual. You can be registered to vote at more than one address.



If you live in residential care or supported living, you need to ask if you are registered to vote. You can ask your support worker or the home manager to help you find out.



Some of us have received a letter saying that we are registered to vote. Some of us haven't received a letter so we need to check if we are registered.

We can ask Electoral Services at our local Council Offices to check their list.



Neil and Andrea from Electoral Services were very friendly and easy to talk to. We said we needed a contact list for all the Electoral Offices so that we can tell everyone who to contact. This list is now on the Better Lives website. [Click Electoral Services contact list.](#)



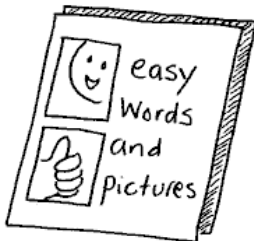
You can tell Electoral Services if you need help to get to the polling station. You can tell them if you need some special help at the polling station. For example, braille for people who are blind or a large ballot form for people who can't see very well. We asked if there was an Easy Read ballot form but there isn't one.



We found out there are 2 electoral registers. That means 2 lists of voters. To find out more about these lists, look at page 4 of these notes.

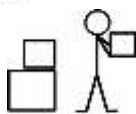


The Partnership Board will send a list of all the people who attended the voting workshop to Neil so that Electoral Services know the names of the people with learning disabilities who might be voting in May 2015. Neil can check these names on the register.



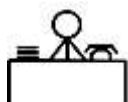
We said we would like to have pictures in the polling stations of the people we are voting for. This would make it easier for us to vote. Neil has checked this and told the Partnership Board that the bosses say they can't allow pictures. This would be illegal.

Neil said he will keep trying to get this rule changed. Mencap and other charities are also asking for polling stations to be made more accessible for people with learning disabilities.



Amanda from Mencap made us think about the things that are important for people with learning disabilities when thinking about who we vote for.

We said transport. Don't take our bus passes away from us. We want to travel before 9.30 am.



We said getting a job is important but we need to be able to get there on time with our bus pass.



We said being healthy was important and being treated the same way as everyone else when we go to hospital. We need to stay healthy so that we can get a job and go to work.



The Partnership Board said they will get the Easy Read manifestos from all the political parties and put them on the Better Lives website. This will help us decide which party to vote for. A manifesto is a list of all the promises a person makes about the things they will do if they get into government.



If we want to, we can have small voting workshops:

- At our locality group meeting
- At our school or college
- At our day service
- At our advocacy group

We can ask Clare and Amanda to help us. We can ask our Electoral office to come and talk to us.



Clare can send us the DVD she showed us with handouts and flash cards.

The Partnership Board will put the workshop presentation slides on the Better Lives website

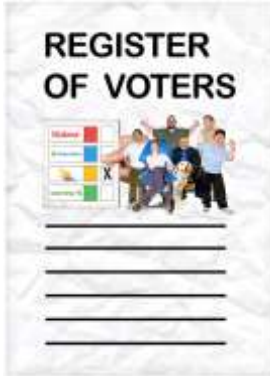


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Electoral Registers - List of Voters – Why are there 2 lists?



One list is called the full register and the other is called the open register.

List Number 1 is the full version of the electoral register

Everyone's name and address goes on this list. This list is only used for:

- Elections
- Stopping crime and helping the police find out about crime
- checking applications if you want to borrow money or get credit



List Number 2 is called the Open Register

This means anyone can buy a copy of the list with your address on it. This might be a company who wants to sell you things. You might get a lot of junk mail if you are on this list. When you fill in the form to register to vote, you can put a tick to say you don't want to be on this list. You can tell your local Electoral Services if you don't want to be on this list.