

Position Statement



Voting

People with learning disabilities have the same right to vote as any other UK citizen.

Sadly, the barriers we face mean that we are sometimes prevented taking part in any voting process.

One of the biggest problems for us is not having enough accessible information about parties and candidates. It means we do not always understand what the parties and candidates stand for and why we should give them our vote.

Politics can be hard to understand. We need information to be accessible so that we can understand how policies and pledges might affect us and how we feel about that.

Having Easy Read party manifestos is a good start to enabling us to engage with election processes. Some parties do this, but not all of them. Often Easy Read manifestos are published after the main version. This means we have less time to understand and think about what is in the documents.

We never receive or see candidate information in Easy Read. Having Easy Read candidate information would be a big help. Knowing more about our local candidates is a big part of our decision about voting.

The accessibility of voting in person varies on the area. Some polling stations have good access to the building and voting

booths, and easy to understand information. It is important that all polling stations can accommodate all access needs.

Transport and having personal support to vote in person can be a barrier to voting for some of us. Being able to have a postal vote can be our preferred option. It is essential that our voting paper arrives in good time so that we have plenty of time to get the right support to fill it in and send it in the post.

"It's important we vote to show our place as active citizens and for political parties to know that we vote so that they think of us when making decisions. I see this as an important part of self-advocacy" Joe Powell, Chief Executive of All Wales People First, May 2024

Calls to Action

- 1) We call on Welsh Government to make sure that any election related information is produced and published in Easy read at the same time as other formats.
- 2) We call on Welsh Government to make sure that all polling venues are accessible for disabled people.
- 3) We call on Welsh Government to make sure that postal votes are sent out in good time.
- 4) We call on UK Government to make sure that any election related information is produced and published in Easy read at the same time as other formats.
- 5) We call on UK Government to make sure that all polling venues are accessible for disabled people.
- 6) We call on UK Government to make sure that postal votes are sent out in good time.
- 7) We call on party candidates to make sure that political information and messages, such as candidate information, are accessible for people with learning disabilities.

- 8) We call on Political parties in Wales to make sure that any election information is produced and published in Easy Read at the same time as other formats.
- 9) We call on UK Political parties to make sure that any election information is produced and published in Easy read at the same time as other formats.

'Nothing about us without us!'

Tracy Austin, Chair of the National Council
In consultation with the All Wales People National Council
and members.
All Wales People First

