



Welcome



- Getting involved in Politics

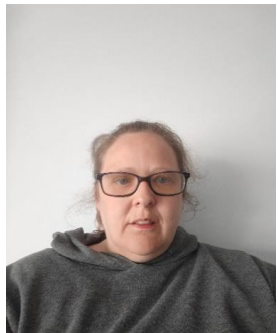


Introductions – our Presenters



Speak Out

- Nathaniel
- Kirsty
- Will (supporting)



Grace Eyre

- Margaret
- Josh
- Pagane (supporting)



Ground rules

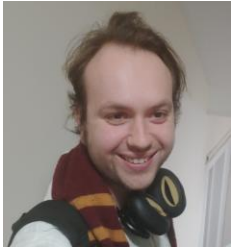


Ground rules

- Speak one at a time
- Put your hand up to ask a question
- Ask if you do not understand
- Respect each other's opinion
- Feel free to take time out
- Ask questions at the end
- Any other ground rules?



Do you agree or disagree with this?



‘What’s the point – the Political Parties are all the same. Nothing ever changes’

How do we get involved in Politics?

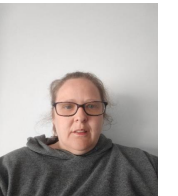


What do Speak Out do?



- Campaigning on local and national issues
- Our Voices Matter Group (BHIG group)
- Work in partnership with Grace Eyre to run hustings at election time

What do Grace Eyre do?



- Our Voices project
- Grace Eyre also help with Employment, travel buddying, and housing

Some things we have changed



- Stopping the closure of ticket offices at train stations
- Made an Easy Read complaints guide for Thameslink
- Stopped the closure of Brighton and Hove's employment support
- Helped with the Council's Learning Disability big plan and made sure it was Easy Read

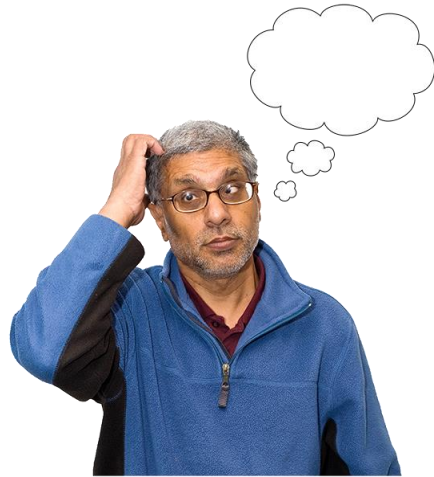
What do we mean by 'Politics?'



Discussion



- What is politics?



Why should **Self-advocacy groups**
or **people with learning disabilities**
get involved in politics?

What is a Hustings and how do you run one?



What is a Hustings?

Grace Eyre and Speak Out have often run Hustings together



Grace Eyre will tell you how they do the Hustings

Step by step guide



ABILITY · EQUALITY · INDEPENDENCE

Accessible election hustings



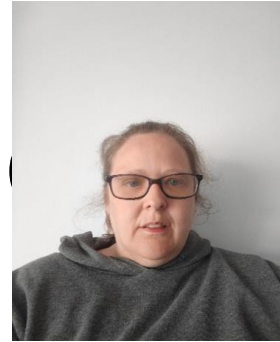
What is an election?



- The time to vote is called an election.
- The word election means choosing. An election can ask you to choose 1 politician or political party.
- Voting is your chance to choose which group of people will make important decisions for the UK.
- Elections can be local or general



General and local elections



- The time when you choose a group of people to run the country is called a general election.
- The time when you vote for local politicians is called a local election.

Why are accessible hustings important?

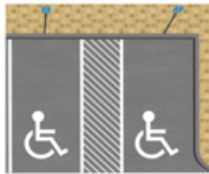




1. Choosing the Right Place

Location:

- Find a place that's easy to find and easy get to by public transport, or car.



Parking:

- Have disabled parking spaces close to the entrance. Have general parking available.



Access:

- Make sure it's easy for people that use wheelchairs, or have mobility needs to get in. There should be ramps, elevators, and wide doors.
- Make sure the lights are not too bright, noises and smells are controlled and there is a quiet space, if needed.



Signs:

- Put up signs that are easy to understand so people know where to go

2. Communication and Promotion



Website and Materials:

- Make sure your website is easy to use and complies with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines:
<https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/>
- Make sure all your promotional material is in easy read and is available in other formats if needed. For example, some people might need large print, Braille, or electronic versions.
- Make sure your promotional material has all the access information people might need on it.

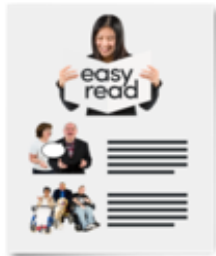




Social Media:

- Use hashtags and captions for videos so more people can know about the event.
- Make sure your marketing materials are consistent and look the same on each platform.





Inviting politicians

- Contact your local politicians and ask if they can attend the accessible hustings event. Tell them why accessible election hustings are important for people with a Learning Disability.
- Tell the politicians if other political parties have confirmed attendance – they are more likely to show up if they have competition!
- Ask the politicians to provide their manifestos in Easy Read or other formats beforehand, so they are available to the audience members.



3. Getting Ready for the Event

MC's, guest speakers and politicians

- Have a nominated person with a Learning Disability to MC the event, with support if needed. They will go through the agenda, introduce the politicians, keep time, and remind everyone of the rules. They will need to let people know where the toilets are, fire evacuation procedures and anything else that is good for people to know.
- Guest speakers with lived experience should be encouraged to speak. This is an opportunity to have issues specific to the Learning Disability community heard, such as accessible voting.





Accessible Stage:

- The stage where the MC, guest speakers and politicians talk should be easy for everyone to get to, including people who use wheelchairs or mobility aids. The stage should have plenty of space and seating for everyone.



Hearing each other:

- Make sure MC's, guest speakers and politicians use microphones so people can hear them. Ask people to speak slowly and clearly.
- If you have a T-loop, make sure it is turned on.



Sign Language:

- If some people use British Sign Language, or Makaton, then hire an interpreter.



Timing:

- Have an agenda of the event available on each table. Have regular breaks so people can rest or use the bathroom if they need to.
- The MC will make sure everyone speaks slowly and there is time for everyone to process what is being said.





Seating arrangements:

- Provide different types of seats for people, including those who use wheelchairs and those with service animals. Have tables, if possible, with paper and pens where people can write down any thoughts or questions they have.



Visual Aids:

- Use big screens to show pictures and words. Give out easy read written copies of what's on the screen.
- Have easy read manifestos on audience members tables, to look at.



Quiet Places:

- Have some quiet spots for people who need a break from noise.

Different ways of asking questions



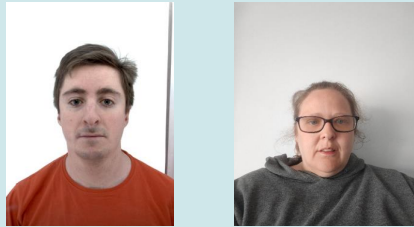
- Make sure people can ask politicians questions in different ways.
- People can write questions in advance, speak during the Question & Answer time, 1-1 conversation, etc.

When do you run accessible hustings?

- Start contacting politicians as soon as the election is announced.
- Run the accessible hustings a month before the election.



Different ways to vote



- You can vote in person or via postal vote.
- There are pros and cons to each one.



Tools for getting involved in politics



We will talk through a plan we made about how you can get involved in politics.

If we have missed anything you can tell us at the end.



1. Do Nothing?

OR



2. Get together and decide what to do.

What is the **focus**? What is the **issue**?



5. Do a survey – not more than 10 questions

6. Share your information and facts with ...



Local radio

Local TV



Local newspaper

Social Media

Make a video and post it on You-Tube



Make a podcast



3. Contact other organisations – find out what they think?



4. Get together and talk to other groups



7. Organise a big meeting or conference.

You can invite local Councillors, MPs, and other people who have power



10. Lobby a Councillor or MP.

Lobbying is when you try to get a Politician to support your campaign



8. Do a local **petition**. If you get 1,500 signatures, the Council must debate it



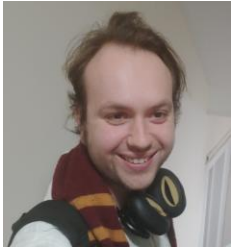
11. You can organise a **demonstration**



9. Speak at a **Council Committee meeting**

12. Get involved in an **All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)**

What is the difference between local and national politics?



- Local politics is often about the services you use every day
- National politics is about decisions made at Westminster, issues that affect everyone in the UK, and the UK's relationships with other countries



What do you think about this now?



‘What’s the point – the Political Parties are all the same. Nothing ever changes’

How do you feel now?

Final thoughts



- Questions
- Final thoughts