

May + June
2023 Poll –
Being a part of
Communities



**HEREFORDSHIRE'S
LEARNING DISABILITY
PARTNERSHIP BOARD**
everything about us but not without us

This poll related to the strategy outcomes:

- Community access becomes an option, enabling more people with learning disabilities to choose this option in addition to existing collective services.
- People with learning disabilities will experience increased independence and build better social networks, leading to improved social inclusion.
- People with learning disabilities and their families feel more confident about change and taking risks.
- People with learning disabilities gain social value by being perceived as ordinary citizens.



Ten people answered the poll about Being a part of Communities.

1. Give three examples where you feel closely connected to people in the wider community.

Examples:

I play football for my local team,

I am part of a committee that looks after a local garden,

I go to my local church and take part in parish events,

I join in locally arranged walks and litter picking,

I go to any free events in my local village hall.



9 People gave examples 1 of these was a group of people.

1 Person said I can't give any examples of this.

Example 1

People in the pub I go to know me mostly.

I often say hello to people as I walk in Hereford.

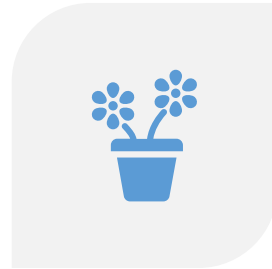
I know people at Autograssing.



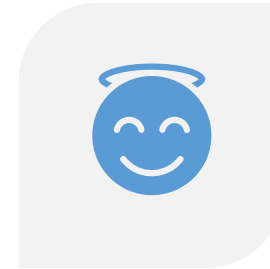
Example 2



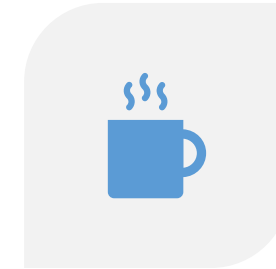
I PLAY FOOTBALL AND ATTEND ASPIRE FOOTBALL TEAM - WHEN SUPPORTED BY AFFINITY TRUST.



AFFINITY TRUST HELP ME TO LOOK AFTER THE BUILDING (SCORE), WE DO FLOWERS AND SWEEP UP SO IT LOOKS GREAT FOR PEOPLE THAT GO BY.



THEY WILL THEN THINK, THAT IS A FUN PLACE TO GO.



I GO TO LOCAL SHOPS AND CAFES, THE VETERANS CAFE, WE HAVE MADE NEW FRIENDS THERE WITH SCORE.

Example 3

We are members of the charity ECHO Herefordshire, who support adults with learning disabilities to take part in various work and fun and life skills activities.

We are a Governance group and are answering this survey on behalf of the whole of ECHO.

1. The friends I have made over the years from nursery, school and college and being a part of ECHO Herefordshire, where I have met lots of people in the community.

2. When I go out shopping around Leominster and Hereford, I meet people and every time I go out everybody knows me and wave to me and stop and say hello.

3. Taking part in the Food Share Scheme and other events that ECHO arranges means that I meet members of the community regularly



Example 4, 5 and 6 and 7

When I am doing Kung Fu



When I'm doing Drama at Aspire

When I am on the farm

I am walking my dog.

When I go shopping.

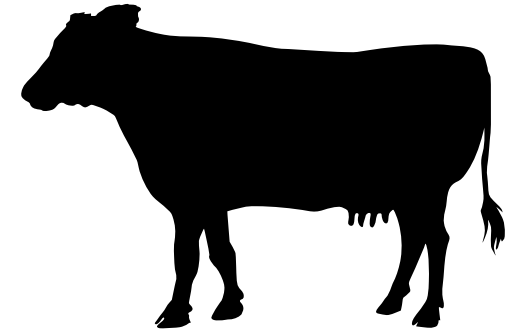
When I come to Aspire.



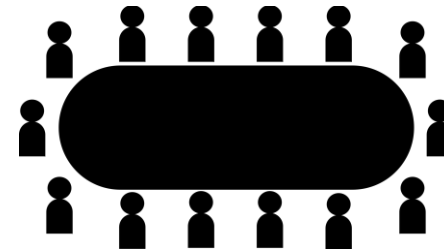
Voluntary work at Community Farm

Member of Railway Club

I am well known in local community



I am part of lots of committees.



Examples 8 and 9

I feel connected with my neighbours.



I go to 2 church St James or St Peters.
The people are friendly, and I know them to say hello.
I can say hello to the shop keepers.

Jumping to Question 7 that relates to this question....

7. Can you name three people you know in the wider community?

Hint: Don't include your carer, your family, your support worker, or your social worker, or other people in day services that have a Learning Disability.

An example of someone in the wider community might be your priest, your neighbour, somebody you volunteer with, or someone in the local shop, chip shop, leisure centre, or pub you got to know, a friend without a Learning Disability.

Answers indicated that once again most people felt that they could.

- 7 chose 'yes, I could name more than 3'.
- 2 chose 'I can name 1 person'.
- 1 Chose 'I don't know'.



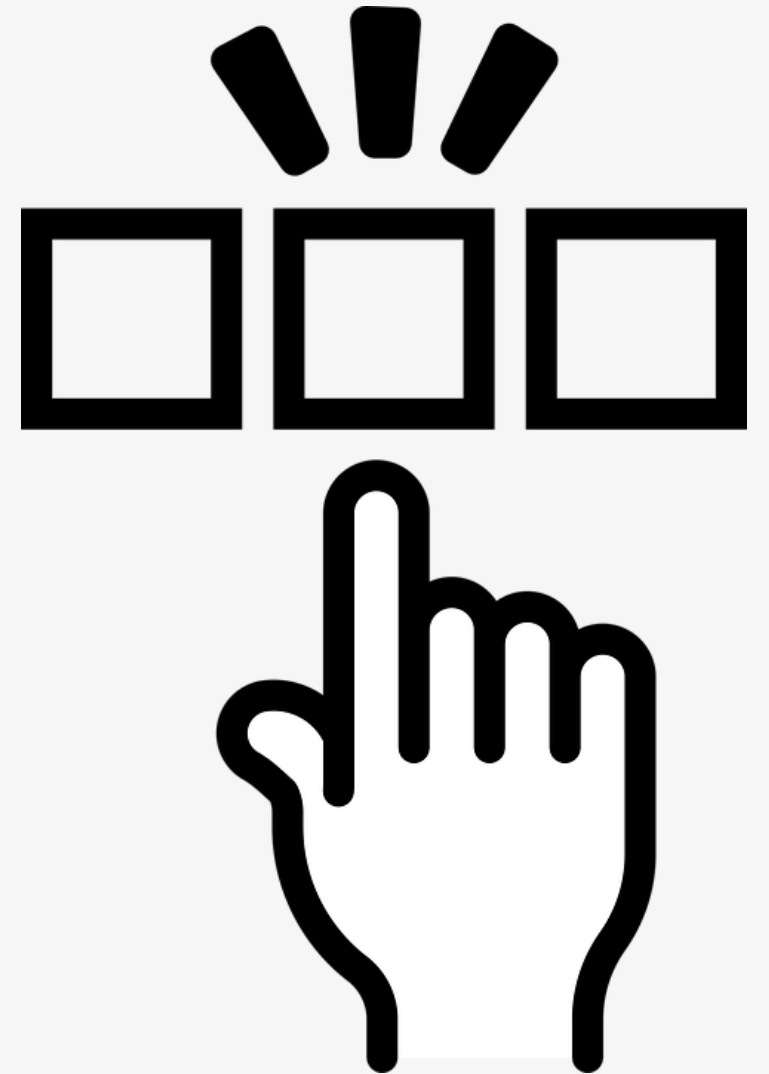
Can you choose to spend your day just as you want?

- 4 people said yes always
- 5 people said yes mostly
- 1 person said yes occasionally



Comments showed that choice is important

- When I go to Score (Affinity Trust) I can make choices every time I go.
- I like to choose what I do.
- I am quite able to be on my own if I want. I like doing word searches and puzzles.



3. Is it easy for you to change your day's activities and do something different if you want to?



6 people said yes

2 people said No

2 people said
sometimes



Comments

I just tell my staff what I wish to do.

When at home I have to do what my family wish to do.

Yes, I can change what I do.

I ask my support staff and they help me.

If I give my parents and support worker lots of notice.

Not really. Happy with what doing at moment.

If other people change plans and that means my plans change, I can find this hard as I like my routine and I like to know what I am doing.

5. Are you allowed to change your daily programme?



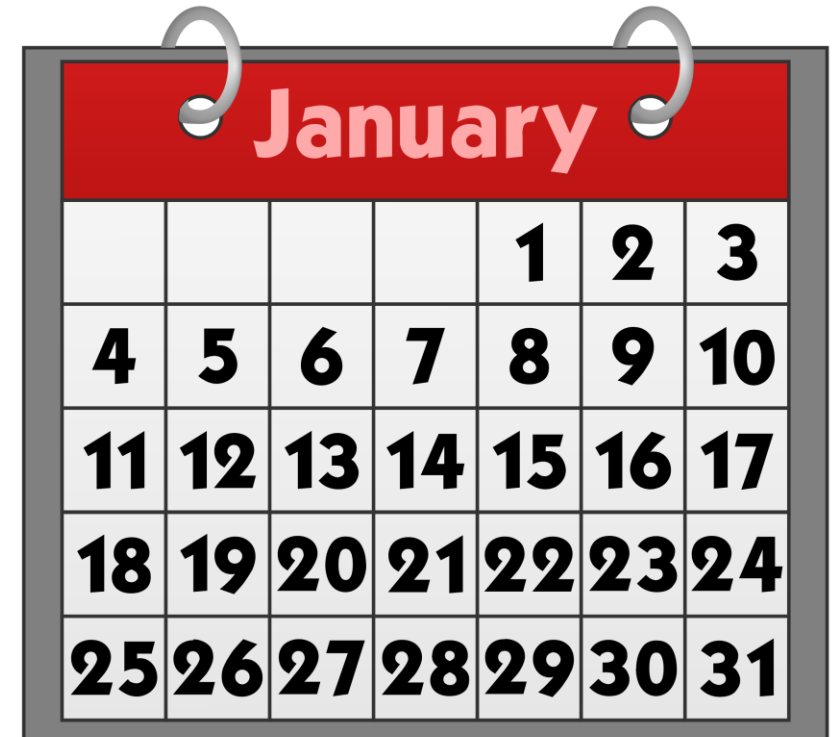
Comment

6 people said yes

1 people said No

3 people said
sometimes

If given notice



6. Do you always do the same activity on a Wednesday or are you allowed to change?



7 people said 'Yes I can choose to change'.

3 people said 'No I have to do the same activity every Wednesday'



6. Do you always do the same activity on a Wednesday or are you allowed to change?

Comments:

At Score I can decide what I wish to do each day. I go Tuesday and Wednesday.

I can change if I need to.

If given notice.

I wouldn't want to change it.

...if I want to.

Widemarsh but can vary after regular activities.

Do you think you are more independent now than you were in 2021?

- 7 People said yes
- Nobody said No
- 1 person said Don't know





8. If you are by yourself in town and you start to feel worried, who would you contact?
(What would you do?)

- I don't know
- I would go to my carer's friend close by where I live, To my shared lives carer or my dad or a shared lives contact I have.
- I would go to a policeman. Not sure. I could call someone where I l've.
- The police, my partner, ECHO office, parents or other family , my carers
- Contact parents through mobile phone.
- I'd find my mum who is a shopkeeper.
- I'd go to a safe place Aspire my mum or my sister.





What does this tell us? From our sample:

- Most people felt that they knew people in the wider community.
- Most people felt they could choose and change what they did.
- Most people felt their activities gave them variety without changing where they were on a particular day.
- People saw 'community' as everyone and not just outside of services or supported living.
- Most people showed that support was being given to change activities when needed.
- There were many examples of services supporting people to be a part of the wider community.
- Most people knew what to do if they felt unsafe.
- Most people feel they are increasing their independence.



How do these answers relate to the Learning Disability Strategy?

- Community access becomes an option, enabling more people with learning disabilities to choose this option in addition to existing collective services.
- People with learning disabilities will experience increased independence and build better social networks, leading to improved social inclusion.
- People with learning disabilities and their families feel more confident about change and taking risks.
- People with learning disabilities gain social value by being perceived as ordinary citizens.



What do you think?



Possible response ideas

Make this report available to show evidence of what people with a Learning Disability think.

Do you have any other suggestions?