

Voices for our Future:

Calls for change made by people with a learning disability



- Everyone with a learning disability should be able to live their best life possible, as they want it.
 - Based on lots of conversations with learning disabled people, Hft's Voices for our Future explains the change that needs to happen to make this a reality.
 - Voices for our Future includes four key policy themes that people with a learning disability care about. Over the next five years we will work, together, to call for change in these areas.
 - We want everyone, including people who make important decisions in Whitehall and Westminster, to listen to people with a learning disability and be part of the change we want to see.
- ▶ Find out more by contacting:
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1 Social care: Getting the right support

People with a learning disability told us:
We want a future where everyone with a learning disability gets the right support at the right time...

... A world where everyone receives enough support to stay healthy and do what they want to do. Whether that's learning first aid, going on a boat ride, having a loving relationship, getting a job, or choosing when to get up or what to watch on TV

... A world where the people who support us are treated fairly and paid enough for the important work they do

"There aren't always enough staff to support me to get out and do the things I want to do"

"Having the right support to look after my own money is really helpful"

"Support staff should be paid more, so more people want to do the work"

Together we will call for:

- An end to unmet need in the social care system so everyone has enough support to be healthy and live how they choose
- Long-term funding for social care which is substantial enough to ensure that:
 - Providers can pay their invaluable workforce a fair wage which keeps up with the cost of living
 - Services are sustainable long into the future
 - Providers can plan and innovate, to ensure the way people with a learning disability are supported, and the options they have can improve



2 Housing and infrastructure: Having somewhere to live

People with a learning disability told us:
We want a world where everyone with a learning disability can live fully in a community we choose...

... A world where there is enough high quality accessible and supported housing for everyone who needs it

... A world where we can access everything we need and want to, whether that's swimming pools, parks, public toilets, supermarkets, buses, gig venues and everything in between

"There isn't enough supported housing for me to live independently. After college I will have to go and live with my parents again"

"It's hard to join in when things aren't accessible to me"

"A lack of changing places and toilets means where we go and how long we stay out for is limited"

Together we will call for:

- Improved accessible housing standards so all homes built in the future are accessible and adaptable
- Improved funding and regulations to make it easier to change existing housing to make it accessible, so people can have greater choice in where they live
- Increased availability of accessible and supported housing, so everyone can live in a home they can use and access fully
- Improved accessibility standards for public infrastructure so facilities and activities can be enjoyed by everyone



3 The world of work: Working and volunteering

People with a learning disability told us:
We want a world where learning disabled people have the opportunity to earn a fair wage in a job they enjoy...

... A world where we are included as equals in the workplace and are considered to be valuable members of the workforce

... A world where we can get support while preparing for work and while in employment

... A world where time spent volunteering is meaningful, with structured opportunities to learn and build skills

"Some employers just don't give people with a learning disability a chance"

"Having a job coach has been so helpful. They have helped me with things like interview practice and applications. More people should have a job coach"

"Applying for a job can be confusing. I don't know where to start, it's overwhelming"

Together we will call for:

- Better support for people with a learning disability on their journey to, and while in work
- Better support for employers to dispel misconceptions and encourage accessible and inclusive employment practices
- A reduction in the disability employment and pay gap



4 Attitudes: Being respected by others

People with a learning disability told us:
We want a world where everyone with a learning disability is treated equally and with kindness...

... A world where we feel safe, welcome and included everywhere we go and when we are online

... A world where the general public has a better understanding of learning disability

"Some people have negative stereotypes of people with a learning disability, it makes it hard to go out and make friends"

"I see the good in everyone, but in the past people have taken advantage of me. I find it hard to know who to trust"

"Having a boyfriend or girlfriend can be confusing. People should get more support with sex and relationships"

Together we will call for:

- More inclusive and equal communities
- Greater disability awareness training
- An end to disability hate crime, in person and online
- Better support for people with a learning disability to navigate friendships and relationships