

CHOICE SUPPORT VOTING SUPPORT

For some people who are supported by Choice Support there is another opportunity this May to vote, this time in a local election

I have attached some information that I have prepared in the past for supporting people in your services to think about whether they want to use their right to vote.

Our role is to enable people to have a good understanding about what, as a citizen having the right to vote involves. This includes of course enabling people to have an understanding of some of the issues that we all may use our votes for.

To ensure that people have more understanding of knowing how & what to vote for :

- ✚ Enable people to have a better understanding of national news items affecting them
- ✚ Enable people to understand what the Political parties are saying about major current issues (at General Elections the main parties produce Easy Read Information & manifestos)
- ✚ Encourage people to take part in local groups , campaigning groups on local issues , to explain petitions & support people who want to sign a local petition about an issue in their community
- ✚ Support people to know more about who their local councillors and to be aware of local news articles and local & national Television information about issues in their communities that may affect their lives in some way .
- ✚ Support people who want to write to their local Councillors or MP's to get support about a specific issue
- ✚ Support people to know more about what services are paid for by local Councils .
- ✚ Support people to know more about what services are paid for by National Government
- ✚ Support people to understand more about their rights for benefit support and to keep in touch with any changes or threats to their benefit entitlement
- ✚ Ensure that anyone who wants to is able to attend Choice Support Forums & special consultation meetings & can attend local advocacy groups .

It is essential that people who wish to vote are supported to **REGISTER** to vote if they have not already done so. Each local council has information on their website if anyone needs to check if they are registered and also information about completing a form to Register to Vote .

Coercion

At the polling station and in the polling booth it is possible to help someone to make the mark to vote but only if they can give you clear instructions of who they want to vote for . It is also possible for people to have a proxy vote or to vote by post but again the person should have been able to indicate their choice.

It is a serious criminal offence to make someone vote for a particular person or party .

The staff at the Polling station can help you to vote when you tell them who you want to vote for .

WEBSITES AND ORGANISATIONS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING

www.aboutmyvote.co.uk (Electoral Commission)

www.everyvotecounts.org.uk (United Response / Electoral Commission)

Mencap - Get my vote campaign

Easy Read information on most local authority websites

PIPPA GASCOIGNE

Involvement Manager (April 2012)

ON THURSDAY 3RD MAY YOU HAVE THE
CHANCE TO VOTE IN YOUR LOCAL
ELECTION IN YOUR AREA



WAKEFIELD



STOCKPORT



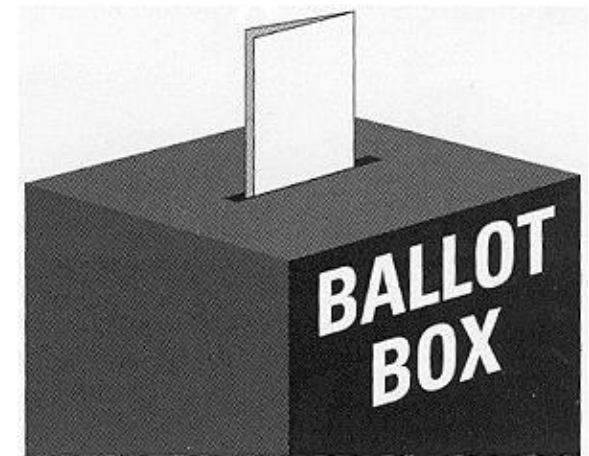
HAVANT



MILTON KEYNES



LONDON



YOU MAY HAVE ALREADY VOTED BY POST
IF NOT YOU CAN GO TO YOUR POLLING
STATION ON THURSDAY 3RD MAY
IF YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE



FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO :

www.aboutmyvote.co.uk OR www.dopolicitcs.org.uk

FOR EASY READ & INTERACTIVE INFORMATION