

Update

Our Vote, Our Voice

We heard from people who are still using the resources we produced a few years ago.

In 2007 we published *Our Vote, Our Voice*, which is peer-based advice around taking part in elections by and for people with learning disabilities.

This was used again to help people feel more confident at taking part in the Scottish Parliament elections in 2011.

In between times, it has been used by people voting in other elections across the UK and in other countries.

- We posted sets out to services and groups in touch with people who have disabilities in Scotland and then in other parts of the UK when the pack was first launched.
- We also sent sets to libraries across the UK and the feedback from them was that it was used by many different community groups and by individuals in a wide range of circumstances.

- The pack has been used by the Commissioner for Learning Disabilities in England.
- It was used by the Electoral Commission of New Zealand.
- It has been included in an official guide to good practice in Denmark.
- Copies of the pack and DVD have been sent to people in: Malta, Denmark, Australia, Canada, USA and New Zealand.
- We also know people in other countries are downloading the material from our website.

Overall, Our Vote Our Voice has been used by over 100,000 people. These are some of the comments they have fed back to us.

“I feel I can speak at all meetings not just elections.”

“I feel good and proud that I voted.”

“I would not change anything, the pack is very good. We LOVED the posters.”

“The children and young people in our school have used it in so many ways beyond the initial topic of citizenship. Your material about making choices has helped teenagers who don't have much confidence in themselves. Each part of the pack works well in itself as well as linking together.”

“We used it to show the parents of people we support that young adults are entitled to vote and made sure that each person was on the electoral role. Now we are planning to follow up and begin the discussions about these young people making more choices and perhaps moving on in their lives. The mums and dads seem to be reassured by the pack as it is ‘official’ and is in terms that everyone can understand.”

“We now have a ‘Politics Group’ at the Resource Centre. People talk about what is in the newspapers and what they saw on the television news. Those taking part enjoy it - we have had some really heated discussions and people are learning that you sometimes have to just disagree on something. It has also changed attitudes of some staff at the centre. The effects are going to be long lasting!”