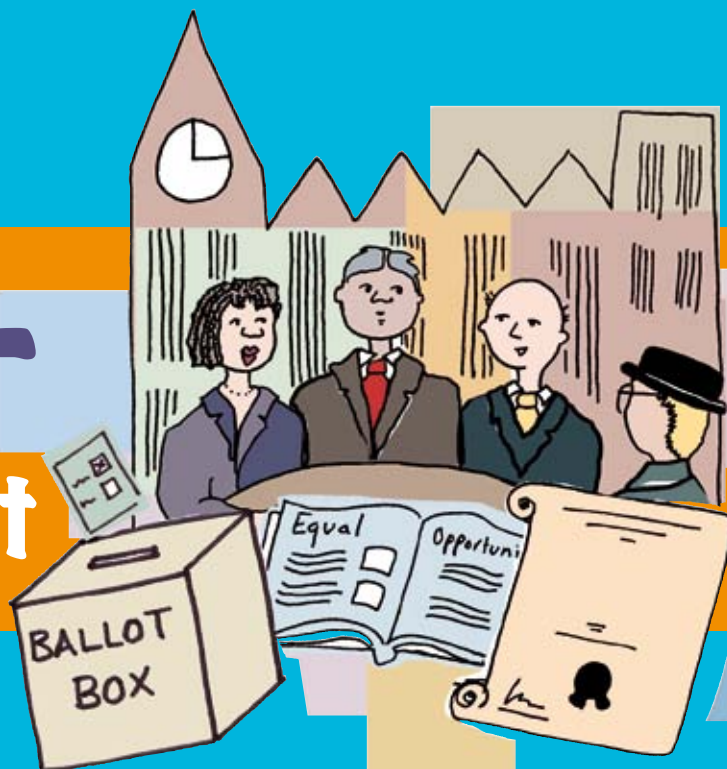


Voting - It's your right



Peer training about elections
by people with learning difficulties

Voting - It's your right



About this project

Outside the Box has been given a grant by the Electoral Commission. It is for a project to encourage more people who have learning difficulties and people who have autism to take part in elections.

We are working with people who have learning difficulties and people who have autism. They will be explaining to other people why taking part in elections is a good idea, and showing them how to do it.



By the end of the project, we will have lots of information that people who have learning difficulties and people with autism can use. Some of the things we are planning are:

- a DVD
- posters
- a list of useful contacts
- ideas that other people and groups have tried.

The project will look at all the stages of electing someone.

- Telling the people who want your vote what you think
- Deciding who to vote for
- Voting at the election
- Keeping in touch with the person who gets elected

Why we are doing this project

There are a lot of things that affect the lives of people who have learning difficulties and people who have autism. These are some examples.

- Getting jobs
- Living in your own house
- Feeling safe
- Being treated with respect
- Getting good services
- Being able to be a volunteer



Politicians need to hear what people think about these matters.

People can also have ideas about what will be good for everyone.

- Nice parks and green spaces
- Good schools
- Good public transport



One way we have our say is by voting for people in an election. People who are elected can work to make things change.

A lot of people have said they are not very sure about voting in elections.

- Sometimes it is because they have not done it before and are not sure what to do.
- Sometimes it is because they don't get much practice in making choices and in having their say.
- Sometimes it is because elections and politics seem really complicated.



But other people who have learning difficulties and people with autism know all about voting. They think it is very important for people with learning difficulties – and everyone else – to have their say. They said:

“We will show other people what to do.”

“People with learning difficulties have the same rights to have their say as everyone else.”



What will happen in this project

From January – March 2007 we will meet with people in different parts of Scotland.

We want to hear what you think about voting and talking to people like MPs and Councillors.

- Have you done this?
- How did it feel?
- What would help make it be easier?

We will make some posters and other information in time for the Scottish Parliament elections in May 2007.

Some people will produce a DVD.

There will be a lot more things ready by September 2007.

We will send all the material to lots of groups led by people who have learning difficulties or autism. We will also send them to other places, such as people who provide support services.

How to get involved

You can tell us what your experiences are about voting.

You can talk about this in your groups and with the people you know.

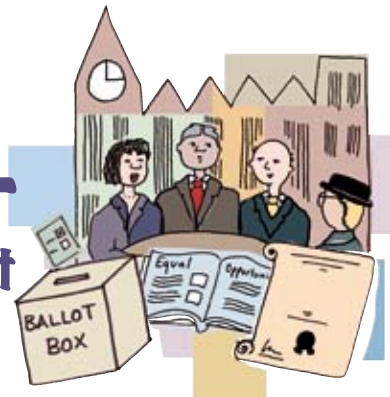
When we have the DVD and other material ready, you can tell lots of people about them and give them copies.

You can keep on encouraging people to have their say and to remember that their views are as important as everyone else's.

When it is time for an election, you can encourage the people you know to take part.



**Voting -
It's your right**



About Outside the Box

Outside the Box gives support to people when they want to try doing something new. We often work with people when they want to find out what might be possible and then have their say.

Over the past few years we have worked with people who have learning difficulties on many things:

- getting more choices around jobs
- having your say and encouraging other people to speak up
- finding out about ideas for good services which help people be included.

You can contact us at:

Unit 19, 6 Harmony Row,
Glasgow G51 3BA
0141 445 3062
peervote@otbds.org
Website: www.otbds.org



About the Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission is the independent body which encourages everyone to take part in elections. They produce a lot of good information, which explains why voting is important. They will also answer people's questions about voting.

They are different from political parties. They encourage people to make up their own minds about which people they want to vote for.

You can get in touch with them at the main office:

The Electoral Commission
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
London SW1P 2HW
T: 020 7271 0500

The Scotland office is:

The Electoral Commission
28 Thistle Street
Edinburgh EH2 1EN
Tel: 0131 225 0200
Fax: 0131 225 0205
Text phone: 18001 0131 225 0200
Email: infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk
Website: www.electoralcommission.org.uk

