



Report about Gloucestershire: Education and training



What it is like for disabled people and people with mental health challenges



What we did

1



What we found out

5



Things that stop disabled people from taking part in education and training

6



Things that would help disabled people to take part in education and training

12



Our big ideas for the future

16



Contact us

22



What we did

We are Barnwood Trust. We work alongside disabled people and people with mental health conditions in Gloucestershire.



We want to change things to make life better for people living here.



We think it's really important that we involve and listen to as many people as we can.



In 2021, we sent out a questionnaire to people living in Gloucestershire.

The questionnaire asked people what chances they get in life.

We asked disabled people and people with mental health challenges questions about:



- any training they have done



- working and getting a job



- volunteering. This means helping organisations for free



- housing



- activities people take part in. Things like social groups, sports or hobbies



260 people answered our questions.



Other people have done **research** about education and training too.

Research means looking at something to find out more about it.



This report tells you the main things people told us about **education and training**.



Education means learning that people get. This might be at school or college.



Training helps people learn new things and skills. It can help people get a job.



This report tells you:

- what we found out
- what people said would help
- ideas organisations can think about



What we found out



Less than 1 in 3 disabled people can do the education or training they want to do.



1 in 2 disabled people said it was hard for them to take part in education. This was because of their health.



1 in 2 disabled people said that having more information would be helpful.

This means more people would be able to take part in education.

Things that stop disabled people from taking part in education or training



A **barrier** is when something stops you or makes it harder for you to do something.



Barriers stop people from having the same chance in life as other people.



We found out about barriers in our research.



These barriers stopped people being able to take part in education or training.

What we found out about barriers

The main barriers people told us about are that:



- 1 in 2 disabled people told us their health makes it hard for them to take part in education or training



- 1 in 2 disabled people do not feel **confident** enough to take part in education or training. **Confident** is feeling like you can do something



- it is hard to get to the colleges



- it costs too much



- there is not enough information about what education and training people can do

What other research found out

Chances to get an education or have training

Not everyone has the same chances to get an education or have training.



Disabled people and people with mental health challenges do not have the same chances as other people.



It is easier for people to get an education in some parts of the country than others.



Schools and colleges

Some children and young people may find it harder to learn than children the same age.



They may need extra support at school or college.



Some children may have a disability that makes it harder to learn.



SEND

We say children who need extra support to learn have **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**.

We call it SEND for short. We say it like this: **send**



Children with SEND are more likely to be **excluded** from school.

Excluded means you are not allowed to come to school. This might be because you have broken the rules.



Some schools and colleges do not give enough help to disabled students. It would be better if students had:



- more choice of courses people can do



- extra time and support so people are able to learn



- information in a way that people can understand. Things like sign language or easy read



Disabled people often feel they need to speak out for themselves. They have to tell schools and colleges what support they need.

It can cost a lot of money for disabled people to go to school or college. This might be because of things like:



- the cost of getting to and from school or college



- the cost of doing a course at college



- paying for someone to support them to go to school or college

Things that would help disabled people to take part in education or training



We asked some disabled people questions about what would help them join in more.



The main things that people said would help them take part are:

- having more information



- having more activities to choose from



- having the right **technology**.
Technology means things like:

- phones, laptops and tablets

or



- it could be things that disabled people can use to help them. Things like screen readers and devices that change text into braille



- having someone to support them to do education or training activities



- education and training activities being more **inclusive**.

Inclusive means doing things in a way that means everyone can join in



- making it easier to get to the school or college

What other research found out

Research done by other people found that these things would help disabled people take part in education:



- schools and colleges working together with local businesses.



This would make it easier for people when they leave college and start work



- schools and colleges being more inclusive. This might be things like:
- classrooms being less busy



- more room for people who use wheelchairs



- training for staff



- schools and colleges offering **peer supporters** to students.

A **peer supporter** is someone who understands what it is like to be disabled or have mental health challenges.



They work together with the person and share ideas about things that might help.



Peer supporters share some experiences that are similar to the person they are working with.

Our big ideas for the future



From looking at everything people told us, there are 3 big things that organisations in Gloucestershire need to do.

Big thing 1: Keep talking to disabled people and people with mental health challenges

Organisations should:

- ask people what barriers they face and what support they need to take part in education or training
- go to events in the local community. Tell people what education and training they offer





- speak to disabled people who are at school or college. Learn from their experiences



- work together with disabled people and people with mental health challenges. Think about how to communicate in ways that work well for everyone



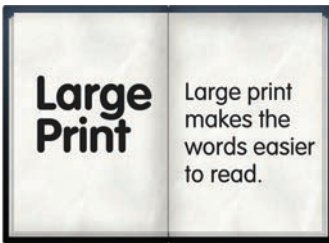
- look at the information they give out. Make sure it is easy for everyone to understand

Big thing 2: Give people clear information that is easy to understand

Schools and colleges should give information in lots of different ways. Things like:



- easy read information



- large print



- braille and sign language



- give information online and on paper

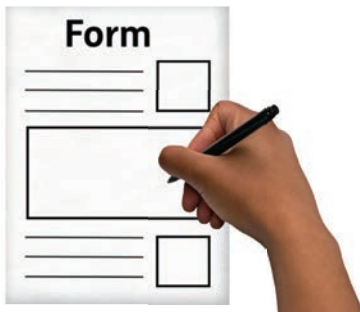


- make sure people can talk to staff face to face if they need to

Schools and colleges should make sure their information is easy for everyone to understand. This includes things like:



- adverts about courses



- forms to fill in to join a course



- information you learn on the course

Big thing 3: Make sure there is lots of choice about education and training for disabled people



This means having more things to do and making sure more people can take part in education and training.

Organisations need to:



- think about what barriers might stop disabled people from doing education or training



- think about what people need to do to pass a course. Find different ways of working that would help more people to pass



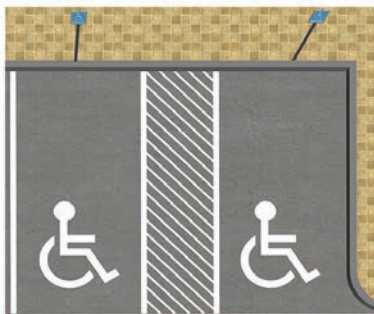
- think about what will make it easier for disabled people to take part in education.

This might be things like:



- good transport for people to get to the school or college

and



- disabled parking and paths for wheelchairs

Contact us



If you would like to speak to us about this booklet, please contact Roz at Barnwood Trust.



By email:

roz.warden@barnwoodtrust.org



By phone:

01242 539935