



Hear
my
Voice



Campaigning together for the
General Election 2017

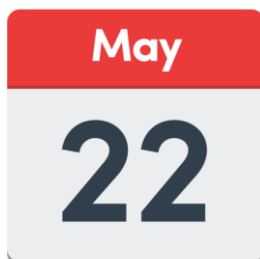
What is this guide about?



This guide shows you how you can engage with your local candidates in the lead up to the General Election on Thursday 8th June 2017.



It is for people with a learning disability and their supporters.



Remember you need to register to vote by **22nd May**.



There is an easy read guide to registering to vote on the Mencap Website:
<https://www.mencap.org.uk/get-involved/campaigning/voting-and-registering-vote>

Why is it important to talk to your local candidates?



A lot has been done to make the lives of people with a learning disability and their families better.



But people with a learning disability are still not treated fairly -



- 1,200 people with a learning disability died earlier than they should have when they were being looked after by the NHS.



- 9 out of 10 people with a learning disability have been a victim of hate crime.



- 1 in 4 people with a learning disability spend less than an hour outside their home each day because of cuts to local services.



Every day, issues like these affect people with a learning disability in the UK, and their families.



But learning disability issues are often not talked about during elections.

We can make this change.



We must all work together to make sure our voices are heard on the issues that matter to people with a learning disability.



We want **candidates, Members of Parliament (MPs)** and our next **Government** to listen to us during the election and the issues that matter.



MPs are the people that speak up for your area in the House of Commons.



Candidates are people that want to become the MP for their area. They want people to vote for them in the election.

The **Government** is made up of the most important MPs from the party that wins the election.

They make the decisions about how the UK is run.

What can we do?



1. Contact candidates to tell them about the issues that matter to you.



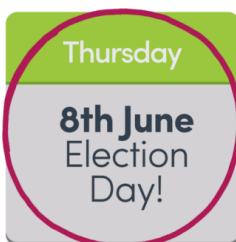
2. Invite MPs and candidates to come and meet you.



3. Attend a 'Hustings' event and ask the candidates a question.



4. Spread the word so that lots of other people get involved too.



Remember, we don't have much time!

The election is on **Thursday 8th June.**

1. Contact candidates to tell them about the issues that matter to you



Candidates need to hear what is important to people with a learning disability.

Tell them what **you** think it is important for them to hear on an issue that matters to **you**.



For example

- you could tell them what you think about the cuts to social care
- you could tell them you want the local bus route in your area to be better.



You could email your candidates your thoughts.



You could tweet them using #HearMyVoice.

You could write on their Facebook page.

2. Meet your local MP or candidates



You can ask the MP or candidates to visit your group or service.

This could be a coffee morning or a day for them to drop in.

You can ask them questions and tell them about the issues that are important to you.

It is good to prepare some questions in advance and give examples of the things you want to talk about.



3. Attend a 'Hustings' event and ask the candidates a question



A Hustings event is a meeting where the candidates answer questions from the audience.

Often anyone can attend these Hustings event and ask a question.

Hustings often happen in the Town Hall, local school or church.

You can Google search where the Hustings will be.





4. Spread the word about what you are doing

We need as many people as possible to engage with their local candidates.



You can post on Mencap's Facebook about what you are doing locally (www.facebook.com/Mencap)

You can tweet Mencap on Twitter (@mencap_charity) and use the hashtag #HearMyVoice.



You can tell your friends and family to visit the Mencap website to find out about the issues that are important to people with a learning disability:

www.mencap.org.uk/get-involved/campaigning/hear-my-voice



You can write a **blog** about getting your candidate to listen to you.

A blog is a piece of writing that is put online.

Finding your local candidates

You can find out the names of your local candidates from your local Electoral Registration Office.



You can find out your local Electoral Registration Office on the **Your Vote Matters** website:

www.yourvotematters.co.uk



Some candidates will have a website with their email address and telephone numbers.

You might need to do a Google search!

Questions and more information



Please call us if you have any questions. We may be able to help!

You can call us on:
020 7696 6009

Or email us at:

campaigns@mencap.org.uk

