

Minutes from the Self Advocate's Workshop

Bradbury Community Centre
Tuesday 22nd March, 2011



Wokingham
Learning Disability
Partnership Board

National Census Workshop

"Helping tomorrow to take shape"

Introductions and Icebreaker

Julie welcomed everyone to today's workshop which was about the 2011 National Census. The information from the census is to help "shape" our communities – so today's icebreaker was all about making shapes out of paper, called **origami**!

Everyone was given some paper and Juanita showed us, step by step, how to make a crown. It was quite tricky but when we had finished, we put on our crowns, introduced ourselves and said what we would do if we were king or queen for the day! Here's what a few people said:



Watch DVDs
all day!

Go to church
and sing

Have lots
of money

World peace

Go for
a walk

Make chocolate
calorie-free

Put the Red Nose Day
Committee in charge
of the world!

Help
people

Give everyone
an extra day's
holiday

Have my
own castle

Make
education free
for everyone

Bring down
the taxes

Pass a law so
I could be king
for ever!

Give homes to
the homeless.

I'd do
everything!

Give everyone
3-day weekends!

Be a chef

Take money from
the rich and give
to the poor



What is a census?

The census is all about counting. Every 10 years, Big Government counts how many people there are in the country and collects lots of important information about their lives. The next census day is **27th March 2011** - the census will ask questions about people's lives on **that particular day** so it can get a clear picture of today's society (what the country is like).



Why is it important?

- ✓ **Big Government** uses the census information to work out how much money to give each local authority to spend on public services.
- ✓ **Local authorities** use the census information to work out what kind of services they need to provide for people - like schools, housing, community care, hospitals, transport etc.
- ✓ **We** can use the census to find out who our ancestors were. You may watch TV programmes such as "Who do you think you are?" and "Heir Hunters" the information they use is based on the census.

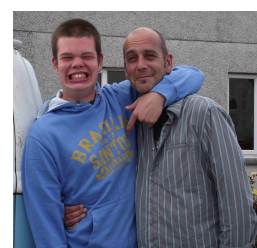


Every household (home) will be sent a census form asking questions about everyone staying there on 27th March. The law says every household has to fill it in and people will have to pay a fine (money) if the form isn't completed and returned. If the census people don't get a completed form within a few weeks, they will contact you to see if you need help.



Here is an example of some questions asked in the census:

- ➔ **Name, date of birth etc**
- ➔ **How many children live in the household?** This is to make sure there are enough schools and nurseries, parks, play schemes etc.
- ➔ **How do you get out and about?** Local government need to make sure there are enough roads and public transport. They want to find out where more bicycle paths or pavements are needed.
- ➔ **How is your health?** This is to make sure there are enough doctors and nurses in each area, and we can get to a hospital
- ➔ **Do you need support, or do you care for anyone?** We are really pleased with this question because it is the first time that people have been asked if they have a disability or if they



- support a family member or friend (unpaid caring).
- Do you have gas or electric central heating, or no central heating? This is to plan how much power the country needs.

After the break, it was time to go through the form and help people understand what they need to fill in. The 1st part of the form is about the household (home) and the 2nd part is about the people who live in it! Some people feel uncomfortable about giving the government personal information – but the census information is protected by law, and kept confidential for 100 years. (So if you are looking things up on the internet, currently you can only see information from 1901 and earlier.)



There is 1 form for every household, but if you live in a group home like a residential care home, you can request individual forms for each person that lives there.



If someone else is filling in the form for your household , it is important that you are still involved in answering the questions. The questions about you must be answered from your perspective (what you think) – for example a question like "what is your religion?" is something only you can answer. If you would like support to ask for an individual form, or if you would like to fill in your own form with help from a support worker, please let us know.



One of the questions that we think is really important for people to properly understand is: "Is there something you are stopped from doing (day to day activities) because of a disability or illness?" Lots of us live independently because we have support with things like preparing meals, paying bills, doing the housework etc. This question means that if all of the support was taken away, would we still be able to live independently?

Julie gave us a few interesting facts about the census!

- ◆ England's 1st census was in 1801 but other countries have been running them for much longer. Perhaps the most "famous" census was when Mary and Joseph travelled from Galilee to Bethlehem to register themselves in the Roman census! (In those days, people had to go to the place where they were born in order to register themselves.)



- ◆ We can see how things like jobs have changed over the years, by looking at old census information. For example, a job that was around in the 1911 census was a "Bogie Man". This was someone who pushed trollies in the coal mines. That job isn't around any more, but today we have new jobs that our ancestors wouldn't have heard of! For example a "Barista" - that's someone who makes coffees and drinks behind a bar.
- ◆ In 1911, nobody with a learning disability would have been included in the census. People with learning disabilities were called feeble-minded and were kept away from everyone else in asylums. The asylums would have kept a census, but they wouldn't have recorded people's names or asked their opinions. It's good that these days everyone has the opportunity to let themselves be counted, so it's important that everyone has a say in what is written about them!!



If anyone would like some help to fill out their forms they can:

- ✓ ask the Partnership Board
- ✓ ask Lisa at Rose Buddies
- ✓ ask Support Horizons

To find out more about the census, go to: www.census.gov.uk

That was the end of our Workshop!

Our next workshop will be on
Tuesday 10th May at the
 Bradbury Centre, 10am-12noon
 where we will be talking about
Relationships.

