ImaYDiT
– Imagining Young Disabled People’s Transitions in a Time of Big Societal Changes

Peer researchers:
Ben Bryan, Finlay Buchan, Anna Coulson, Thomas Fry, Lucy Allen, Toby Bevins, Liam Baxter, Lauren Wolfe, Zackary Paterson

WiltsCIL researchers: Nikki Cull, Mary Reed, Abbie-Jo Lawrence, Matt Stabb

UWE researchers: Sarah Ferguson, Tillie Curran, Mat Jones
What does a good life look like now, and what are your hopes and dreams for the future?

Society is rapidly changing! What can we do?

Think BIG!

ImaYDiT is a research project in Wiltshire, England
It brings together: Young disabled people living in Wiltshire, Staff at Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living, and Researchers at the University of the West of England
It is supported by Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Parent Council, and funded by Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning
How we started

September 2017
Nikki asked a lot of young disabled people:

Would you like to take part in research about your future?

Yes, I’m interested!

7 young people aged between 16 and 26 said they would like to be researchers

Our training to run our knowledge cafes

A Knowledge Café is where you get a lot of people together to talk about a topic

We had 2 preparation days to get to know each other and share our interests …
And we trained to become Peer Researchers.

December 2017
First, we had a knowledge café preparation day so we could use our new research experience and then run our own cafes.

January 2018
Second, we tried out our own knowledge café …
We met Sam who made cartoons about our ideas …
We decided our research questions would be:
• What does a good life look like now, and what are your hopes and dreams for the future?
• Society is rapidly changing! What can we do?
We planned our roles:
Welcoming, setting up café tables, bringing topic photos, photographing the café, music, refreshments
We tried out doing the research with ourselves
We ran Knowledge Cafes

February 2018

We ran a Knowledge Café with 44 young people at a local college …

That evening, we ran another Knowledge Café with 13 people at the college youth club …

Young people shared their ideas for a good life using artwork and pictures. Sam was there to collect all the ideas and make them into a giant cartoon.
The Day of the Knowledge Cafe
March 2018
The report had our photos, the cartoon and what people had told us or wrote or drew about their good life ...

We talked about what we remembered ...

We talked about what we had learnt about what was important to young people...

...and what would give them a good life.
March 2018

Our research discovered that young disabled people have many ideas about their future hopes and dreams ...

Lots of people talked about, or drew about:
- home, love and relationships
- having a partner and living together
- wanting their own home (but not as much as they wanted a partner!)
- having friendships
- how important animals are, especially pets
- their enjoyment of nature
- relaxing and having fun which included music, leisure activities and sports
- wanting to have a job and to be paid …
I want to be married

Sometime in future...I’d like to go travelling, when I get back I want to focus on getting employment, buy a house and settle down and start a family

I’m going to take my driving test so I can drive to work and drive with my mates

I want to have children. They make me happy

I think that love is the most important thing in the whole world. I want a world of love. That’s what I want

I want to have my own house and live independently with my current partner and have fun with my friends

I want to be married

I’d be out. Be with friends. All drinking together

I love to watch the sunset

Some young people also said they...

...want to have their own family and children

...want to learn to drive and get to work

...like nature, walking and watching the sunset and being outdoors because it is healthy

...like all sorts of sports, fishing and hiking

...want to travel and see places in England and around the world
Key messages from our research

1. Don’t call us ‘Disabled young people’ – we are just young people with the same hopes and dreams for the future as anyone else.

2. Support us to change the world! We want to contribute to making the world a better place.

3. We want a chance to find where we belong. Everyone has a place where they feel they belong.

4. We want the chance to make our own choices, do things for ourselves and decide on our future.

5. We want to be part of loving families, to have the chance to get married and have kids.
March 2018
We talked about who we wanted to tell about our research and what we would like them to do to make it all happen.

Our training to run our knowledge cafes

- Local Authority and the government
- Friends, family and our community
- Social media
- Businesses and the estate agents
- Everyone through conferences
- And tell myself!

Tell the government to help us become independent

Help us have happy lives

Help people have their dreams

Make sure that everyone knows
June 2018
We met to discuss how we wanted this ImaYDiT final report to look ...
We had a visit from DRILL who funded our project ...
We told them what we had achieved so far ...
We celebrated our team with a trip to the cinema together!

What we’re doing next

We are holding events to tell people about our research
We are planning the Think Big Be Bold Festival to show other people they can do it too

See https://en-gb.facebook.com/ImayditProject/
August 2018
How might new technologies change our lives?

The research team visited UWE’s “Home of the Future” at the Robotics Lab and saw the Driverless Vehicle.

Everyone loved Pepper.

The research team commented that having robots in the house and driverless cars would mean not having to rely on others.
It literally could be the thing for people with disabilities.

It could be your buddy instead of your carer.

I felt safe with the Pepper house robot.

Keeping track of things... what’s in the fridge and cupboard.

Really good.

Amazing.

Not just for the rich.

You would have more time to do the things you want to do.

Researching the home of the future.

16
We wanted to support young disabled people to explore and re-imagine their adult lives and have the best future. This involved taking an ‘assets-based’ approach. This is where we focus on what people can do- rather than what they can’t do – which is a ‘deficit approach’. We also thought that there is not enough research about the whole of young disabled people’s lives. Instead a lot of research only concentrates on transitions through the benefits and service system.

**Wiltshire Social Services** and the **Wiltshire Parent Council** helped steer the project because, where we could, we also wanted to put young disabled people’s hopes and dreams into action.

We want to understand how this group of young disabled people can be supported to become the next generation who are aware of their rights, with ambitions for their futures and able to establish meaningful and independent adult lives.

**If you want to find out more about the ImaYDiT research project go to** [https://www.wiltshirecil.org.uk/](https://www.wiltshirecil.org.uk/) **or contact Nikkicull@wiltshirecil.org.uk**