

Summary

ImaYDiT (“I Made It”): imagining young disabled people’s transitions in a time of major societal change

About the DRILL Programme

DRILL (Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning) was an innovative 5 year, UK wide programme led by disabled people, for disabled people and funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

Launched in 2015, the programme was managed by a partnership of Disability Action Northern Ireland, Disability Rights UK, Disability Wales and Inclusion Scotland.

The aim of the programme was to build better evidence about approaches which enable disabled people to achieve independent living. The findings from the projects it funded can be used to inform future provision across a wide range of policy areas, and give a greater voice to disabled people in decisions which affect them.

This is one of a series of summaries of the project supported by DRILL. Final reports, toolkits and summaries of all the projects are available from the DRILL website at www.drilluk.org.uk.

Overview of ImaYDiT

This project explored the transition from childhood to adulthood for disabled young people.

It looked at societal changes and the potential of change to improve the lives of young disabled people.

Approach

The project ran a 'Knowledge Café' with peer researchers and 44 young people at a local college, who shared their ideas for a good life using artwork and pictures.

Findings

Participants talked about their enjoyment of nature, wanting their own home, having friendships and having a paid job as part of their future hopes and dreams.

The most common response was a desire to have a relationship and be able to live independently.

Everyone wanted to feel as if they had a place where they belong.

Participants wanted the chance to make their own choices, do things for themselves and decide on their own future.

They did not want to be called 'disabled young people'; they reflected that they are just young people with the same hopes and dreams for the future as anyone else.

The use of technology in the future could mean that participants would not have to rely on others.

Recommendations

The project outlined many recommendations, some of which are listed here. All recommendations are included in the full report, which is linked below.

- The government should help young disabled people to become independent
- Use the training the peer researchers received to run the 'Knowledge Cafés' to tell local authorities, government and businesses about the report
- Refer to disabled young people as just young people
- Bodies must help facilitate more independence for these young people in making their own choices for their future

Recommendations (continued)

- Provide support to allow young people to contribute to society in the ways that they want.

Final report

[ImaYDiT \(“I Made It”\): imagining young disabled people’s transitions in a time of major societal change](#)

Please click on report name to read the full report.

Project partners

**Wiltshire Centre for
Independent Living**

