

RESEARCH PROJECT REPORT

ImaYDiT

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



Peer researchers:

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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 ...

We went to Fairfield Farm 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

WHAT WE DID WITH THE INFORMATION FROM THE KNOWLEDGE CAFÉS

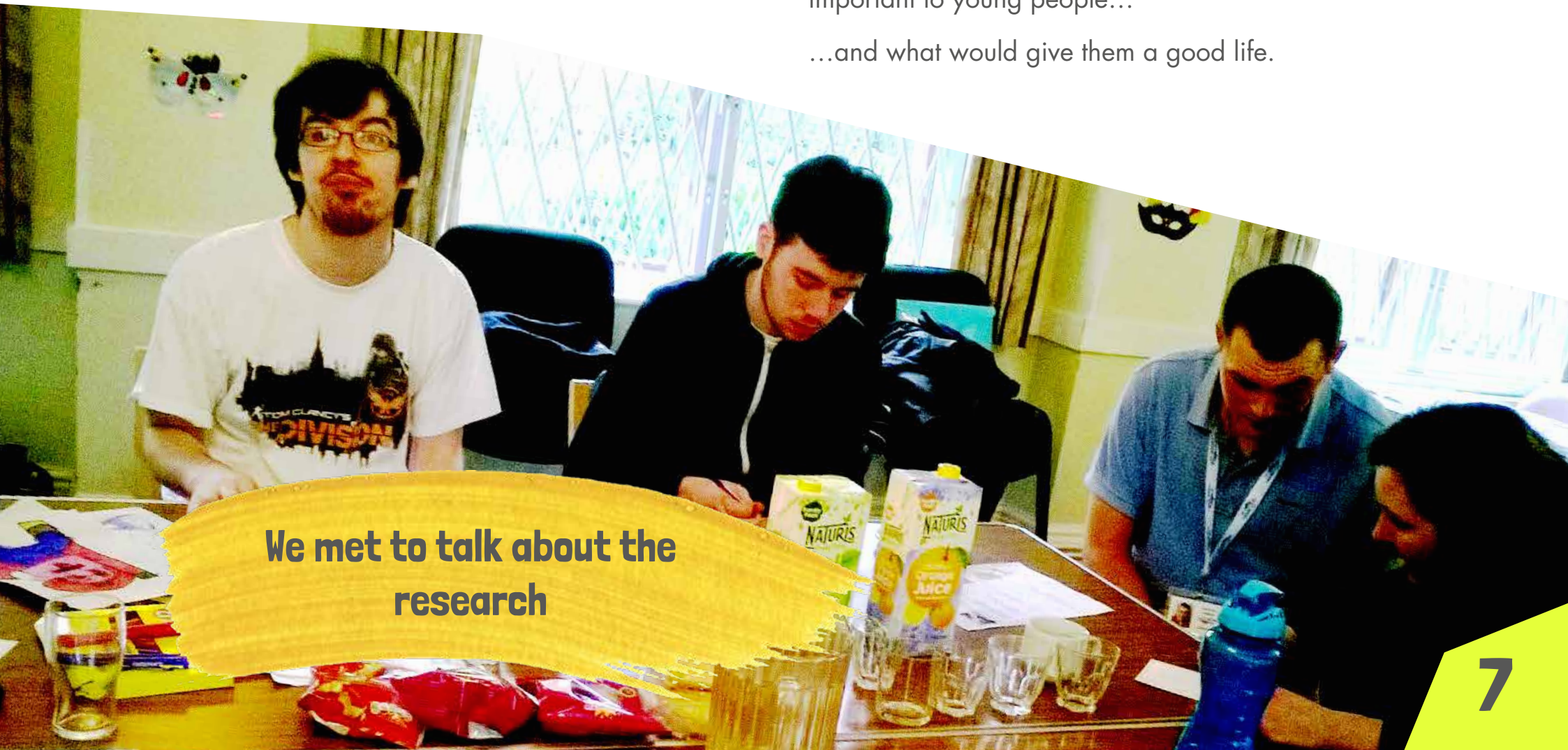
March 2018

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.



We met to talk about the
research

WHAT WE DISCOVERED

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

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 want to be married

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'd be out. Be with friends. All drinking together

I [just] love to watch to 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

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

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.

3
We want the chance to make our own
choices, do things for ourselves and
decide on our future.

4
We want a chance to find where
we belong. Everyone has a place
where they feel they belong.

5
We want to be part of loving
families, to have the chance to
get married and have kids.

WE WANT TO TELL ...

**Tell the government to help
us become independent**

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!

**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



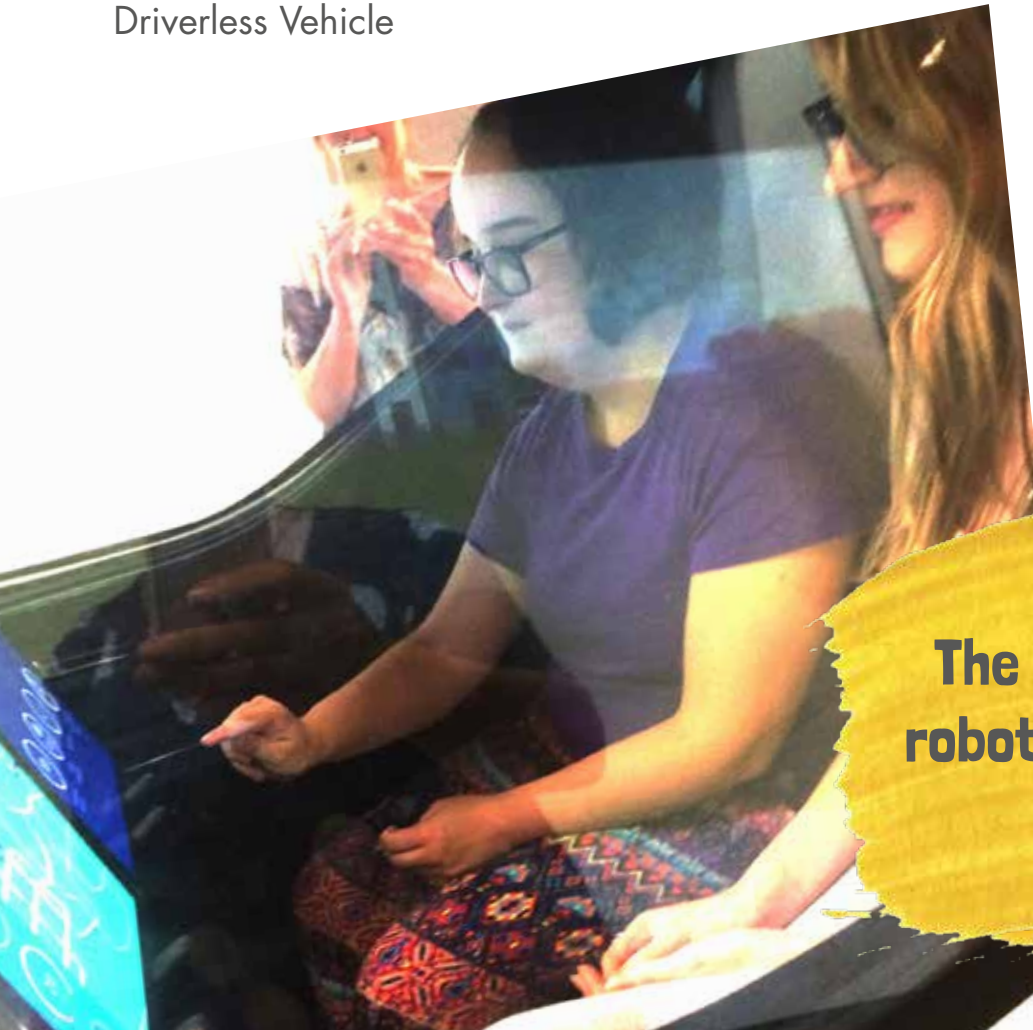
See <https://en-gb.facebook.com/ImayditProject/>

RESEARCHING INTO THE FUTURE

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

RESEARCHING THE HOME OF THE FUTURE

**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**

**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**

Notes

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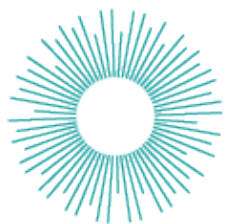
Notes

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FINDING OUT MORE...

ImaYDiT was funded by DRILL – Disability Research for Independent Living and Learning. This is supported by the Big Lottery Fund.

WiltsCIL staff, members of WiltsCIL Coproduction Group and researchers at UWE came up with the original idea for this project.



drill
Disability Research on
Independent Living & Learning



**NATIONAL
LOTTERY FUNDED**



Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters



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/> or contact **GENERIC WILTSCIL EMAIL**