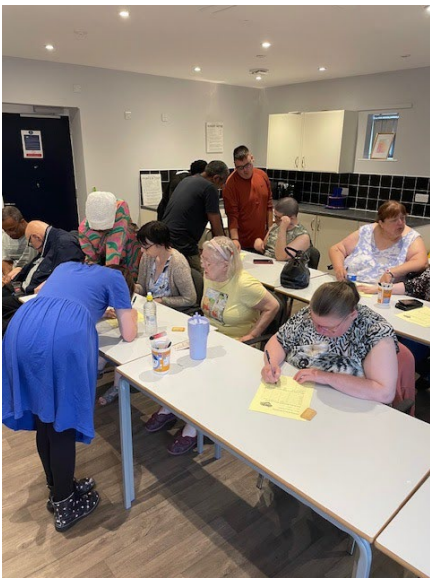




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Report August 2025



Inside...

Getting Around



Getting Around Workshops



The second topic for this year was 'Getting Around'. The LDAT wanted us to find out how learning-disabled adults travel around Manchester.

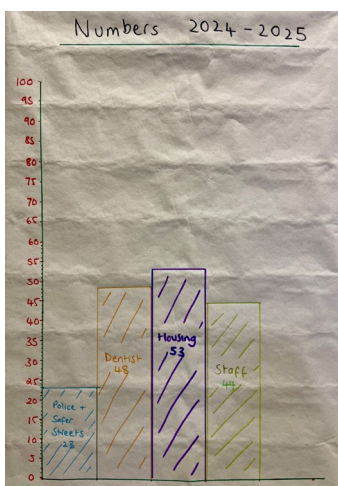


We did 7 'Getting Around' workshops. This is one less than we did for the last topic but is still good and close to our target of 10 workshops. These workshops were at: Scout Drive, Ross Place, Hall Lane, Heathfield, Northfield, MPF and Shaw Centre.

Amber took the opportunity to do some worksheets during a Pamper Session at MPF. This was good and boosted our numbers. We will hopefully be looking for more opportunities like this in the future.



We tried many times to contact One Club, but they never got back to us. This is disappointing as we had a good workshop with them last time. We will continue to try and contact them for future workshops as it took a long time to get them involved.



In total we spoke to 56 learning disabled adults. This is lower than our last topic when we spoke with 65 learning disabled adults. We think this is due to it being the summer holidays for colleges and because we did not manage to do a workshop at One Club.



We asked them

1. How do you get around?

The most popular mode of transport was the **Bus**, 26 people say they used a bus 'a lot'.



Things they liked about the bus:

- It's free (if you have a bus pass)
- You can travel to lots of places/get out and about
- You can go familiar places like work or friends



Things they disliked about the bus:

- It's crowded
- You can't get a seat
- People being rude, name calling, staring
- Waiting



Possible Solutions:

- lanyards/badges indicate you have a disability, but they also attract attention
- a bus conductor could help people find seats and stop people being rude
- better gps tracking on the app or live at

bus stops could help with waiting
The second most popular forms of transport were **Car** and **Walking**. 19 people used these 'a lot'.



Things they liked about the car:

- It's nice and comfy
- It takes you door to door



Things they disliked about the car:

- Heavy and slow traffic
- Finding parking spaces

Other Ways People Get Around:



Taxis: People like the door-to-door service but sometimes find drivers rude and unhelpful. They think taxis are expensive and don't like surge pricing. 1 person said a taxi driver refused to help with their walker and threw it in the boot, breaking it.



disability
confident

What we would like to see: A disability friendly taxi scheme where drivers are trained to communicate and support learning disabled adults and the equipment they use.



Bikes: These were only mentioned by a couple of people. We know there are schemes to help learning disabled adults use bikes. One person said others had a go at him when he was travelling on his bike.

2. How would you like to get around?



The most popular answer was by **Bus** can't be used because:

- Their parents will not let them
- It's not safe
- They have difficulty accessing the bus
- They haven't got a bus pass



Our thoughts:

We were surprised the bus was how most learning disabled adults wanted to get around. We have lots of buses in Manchester, so we need to make these easier for adults with learning disabilities to use.

Other ways they would like to get around:



Walking: but they can't do this because they can't go out alone, are embarrassed of people looking at them or because the pavements are not good.





Taxi: but they can't do this because it's expensive and it's not accessible for everyone.



Tram/Train: but they can't do this as they need support to get on it as there is no driver to talk to and they don't know how to use trains or manage at the train station.

3. Do you feel safe getting around?

16 people said they do not feel safe going out on their own:



13 said people said this was because they were nervous or scared. Some said they were worried about being attacked/approached by strangers.

5 people said they don't like to go out in evenings. They were worried about knife and

the
gun attacks.

3 people were not confident how to get to places and were worried about getting lost.

4. Can you travel on your own?

36 people said they cannot travel on their own:



27 said they need support from someone else such as parents or staff. They said this was because they are unsafe on public transport, or they need assistance.

11 said that they are not confident with routes and finding the right bus and worried about getting lost or forgetting what to do/where to go. 10 said that the roads and pavements are uneven or have potholes and they are worried about falling.



4 people said they just don't like it and prefer to be with a friend when they go out.

5. Have you got a bus pass?



Only **6** people did not have a bus pass. We thought it was good that this was such a low number. These people had not renewed it or had their own car and did not need one.

6. Have you had travel training?

22 people said they had travel training but many it was a long time ago. 16 people had been trained by family or staff. 3 couldn't remember who trained them, 2 trained



themselves and 1 had training from a friend.

Our thoughts: Could there be an option to easily request and receive travel training. At the moment people seem to get it once. Could it be offered when you renew your bus pass and could other adults with learning disabilities who use the bus a lot help.

7. Do you use taxis instead of public transport?

27 people used a taxi instead of public transport because:

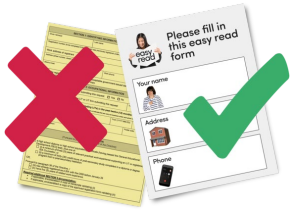
- It's a door-to-door service
- I can't face public transport
- I have luggage or bags from shopping
- There is no one to support me on public transport
- It's easier, more reliable or quicker
- To get me to a place on time (like an appointment)
- To go to a specific place (sisters, shops, college)



Other News:



Blaine and Amber are having training for the technology they got from Access to Work.



The team is getting better at doing their own reports. We have some training with photosymbols in October 2025 and are making a list of things we need to learn.



We are planning to visit a group called 'The Voice' who are part of Mediline. Catherine Campbell suggested contacting this group and we want to go and introduce ourselves and see if we can do workshops with them.



Our next topic is health, and we are thinking of looking into routine health screening like breast screening to see if adults with learning disabilities are going to their appointments.

Many Thanks
The Engagement Team