

# RESEARCH PROJECT REPORT

**ImaYDiT**

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



**Peer researchers:**

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**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

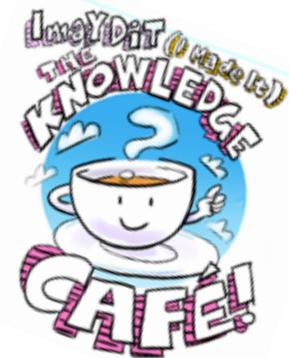
We ran a Knowledge Café with 44 young people at a local college ...

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

## We went to Fairfield Farm College



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

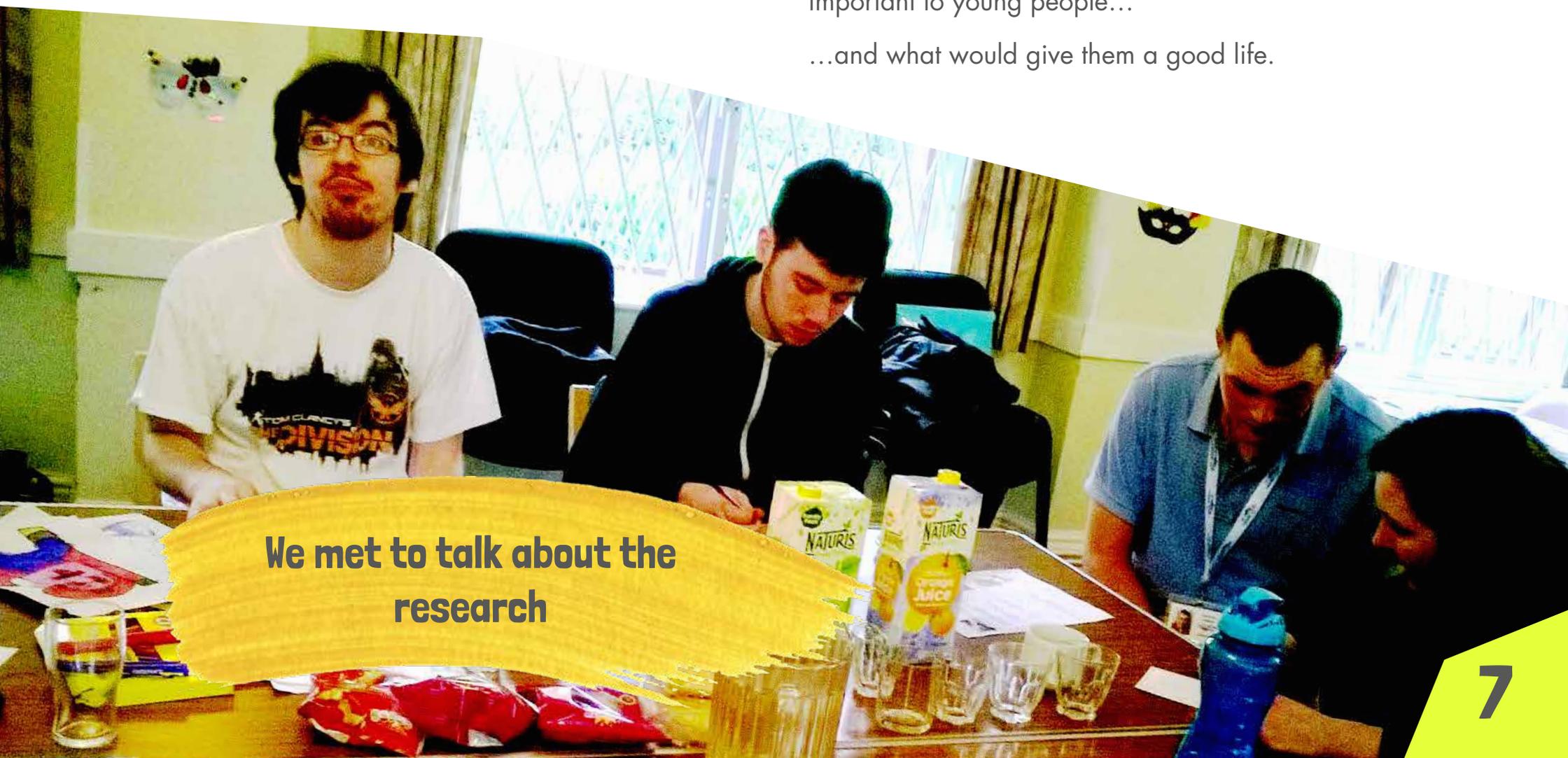
## March 2018

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 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 be married**

**I want to have children. They make me happy**

**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**

ImayDit (I Made It)  
THE KNOWLEDGE



CAFE!

@Imaydit  
#ImayDit #dreambig #bebold

IT'S A CAFE WHERE WE SHARE KNOWLEDGE

WE'LL BE THINKING BIG AND POSITIVE!!

WE'VE GOT FLOWERS ON THE TABLES & EVERYTHING! AND GRAPE!

HOPES & DREAMS

RELAXING & HAVING FUN  
FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS  
ALL SPORTS!  
WILDLIFE  
NATURE & ANIMALS  
BUTTERFLIES!  
A LOT OF GARDENING?  
HOLIDAYS  
DANCE DANCE  
COMEBY WE CAN GET UP TO A CAB, A PIZZA, YOU TRUST THIS PLACE LIKE A HOTEL!

WILD LIFE

HOME & RELATIONSHIPS  
CHALLENGES  
RELATE EACH OTHER!

INDEPENDENCE  
MY OWN HOME & FUTURE - A FAMILY TO TAKE CARE OF

ARTS & MUSIC  
BRIGHT IDEAS

MOVIES  
LATER

DANCING  
CASTLES & CULTURE!

WORK MONEY & TECHNOLOGY  
IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO FILL BLANK SPACES WITH THINGS FOR THE END OF IT

LIBRARIES  
HELP TO EXPLAIN THINGS  
USE IT CAN HELP US UNDERSTAND OTHER COUNTRIES

WHAT DOES YOUR GOOD LIFE LOOK LIKE?



IT LOOKS LOVELY & LOVE PLUED... A WORLD OF LOVE!

FOR FRIENDS & FAMILY  
FOR PETS

"MAYBE A HUSBAND OR WIFE..."

"OR A BABY?"

A BIG AMERICAN HOUSE

FLYING THE WIFE  
SEEKING THE WORLD BY PLANE...  
YACHT...  
CAR  
LET THESE THINGS BRING THE WORLD TOGETHER!  
BROOM (ANDY POOLE BROS)



...FOR THINGS WE LOVE

ART  
MUSIC  
WITH MY BONDS  
DANCING  
DEYING

WINNING FUN!  
PROBLEM SOLVING  
GIFT

FOR NATURE  
FOR OTHERS



AND PROGS

AND OF COURSE... GOLD



AMMM... SO WHAT NEXT?  
HOW DO WE MAKE THINGS HAPPEN?

## KEY MESSAGES FROM OUR RESEARCH

2

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

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.

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.

## 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



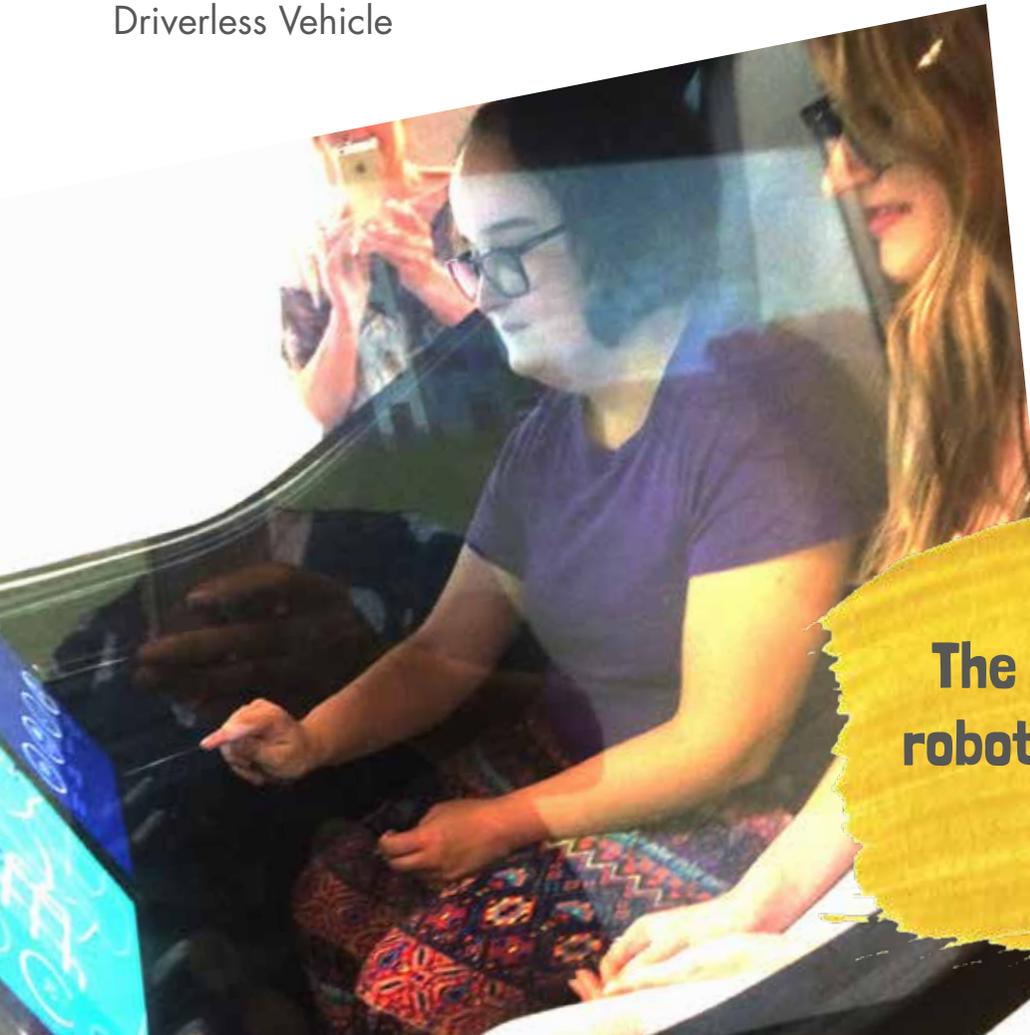
See <https://en-gb.facebook.com/ImayditProject/>

# 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

It literally could be the thing for people with disabilities

Really good

Amazing

It could be your buddy instead of your carer

Not just for the rich

I felt safe with the Pepper house robot

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







## 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.**



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****