

Easy Read

questions and answers about the National Down Syndrome Policy Group



This easy read booklet explains the work of the NDSPG

IMPORTANT

Some words used in this booklet are in **bold** and are explained in a words list on page 8

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What is the National Down Syndrome Policy Group or NDSPPG?

The NDSPPG is made up of people who have Down syndrome and other people from Down syndrome groups from across the UK.

We want to help the **government** make changes to services that should help people with Down syndrome, all through life.

We work with the APPG for Down Syndrome (APPGDS) by telling them about the lives of people with Down syndrome so that the government can make the right changes to its services.



What is All Party Parliamentary Group for Down Syndrome (APPGDS)?

The All Party Parliamentary Group for Down syndrome is a group of **Members of Parliament** or **MPs** who meet to talk about the things that matter to people with Down syndrome and look for ways to help.

The leaders of the APPGDS is Lisa Cameron MP and Matt Weston MP

Why do we need an APPG for Down syndrome?

The opinions of people with Down syndrome should be listened to by the APPG so that MPs can help to improve the **services** that people with Down syndrome use in everyday life.



Does the NDSPG represent people with Down syndrome in the right way?



There are five people with Down syndrome on our team of Founding Officers and eleven others who represent our community.



The Founding Officers who have Down syndrome are leading our Advisory Group, you can join in and tell us about your life and what matters to you [here](#)

Everyone on our Founding Officer team is listened to and treated equally.

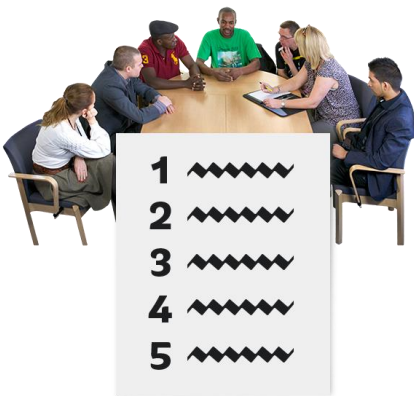
What does the NDSPG want to do?

People with Down syndrome have told us that they want better healthcare and they would like to be more included in places like schools and employment.

We want to work with the government to help make these things happen and make life better for people with Down syndrome.

What about the opinions of people with Down syndrome?

We have set up an advisory group to make sure we hear from people with Down syndrome. You can read about the Advisory Group and find how to join [here](#)





What is the Down Syndrome Bill?

The Down Syndrome Bill asks the government to think about people with Down syndrome in important areas, to make sure we are treated like everyone else, right through life.

You can read about it [here](#)

Why does the NDSPG support the Down Syndrome Bill?



Although we already have some laws to help disabled people in England, people with Down syndrome do not always get the right support.

The Bill will mean that the government will have to give more help to its services to support people with Down syndrome better.

When will the public be asked about the Down Syndrome Bill?



This Bill is a **Private Members Bill** which means that the part where people are asked for their opinions comes later rather than at the beginning.

When it is time we will make a space on our website so people can tell us what they think should be in the Bill.



Is there government support for the Down Syndrome Bill?

The Down Syndrome Bill has been supported by all political parties and the Prime Minister has said he will do whatever it takes to make the Bill into law.



Will the Down Syndrome Bill only help people with Down Syndrome?

We think that the Bill will be a good thing for all disabled people in England.

We hope that it will mean that the laws we already have for disabled people will be used more and for everyone.



Is the Down Syndrome Bill like the Autism Act?

In some ways yes. But unlike the Autism Act which only thinks about adults with Autism, The Down Syndrome Bill looks at the things that can help people with Down syndrome through all stages of life.



Why does the NDSPG want the law to recognise people with Down syndrome?

If we know how many people in our country have Down syndrome the government can spend the right amount of money on the services that help them.

We know that people with Down syndrome are all individuals who share some strengths and challenges.

If those strengths and challenges are recognised properly, things like therapies and services can get better at making sure people with Down syndrome get the same opportunities as everyone else in things like:

- **Maternity**
- **Education**
- **Employment**
- **Healthcare**
- **Social Care**



Who is paying for the work that the NDSPG does?



Everyone at the NDSPG is a volunteer.

We will need to fundraise to pay for some things like research and for some staff to do admin work.

Any money that we raise will be used for NDSPG work and we will tell people what we spend the money on.

If you would like to help us fundraise then please get in touch [here](#)

What about Devolved Nations?

So far the **devolved nations** have not agreed to the Bill. We hope they agree before the next stage of passing through Parliament in January 2022.

If you live in Scotland, Northern Ireland or Wales you can ask your MP to think about the Down Syndrome Bill again and to get in touch with us.



Word List



Devolved Nations

These are Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. They are parts of the UK that run their own governments and laws separately from England.



Government

This is where the laws and policies of our country are made or changed. The government looks after things like health, education, the economy, culture, transport and the environment.



Member of Parliament or MPs

These are people who have been voted for by others in their area to speak up for them in Parliament.



Private Members Bill

This is an plan to change the law by an MP or a Lord rather than a plan made by the government.



Services

These are things like schools, councils and hospitals.



Get in touch



To find out more you contact the National Down Syndrome Policy Group by email:

contact@ndspg.uk

Or find us on social media:



[@NDSPolicyGroup](https://twitter.com/NDSPolicyGroup)



[@The National Down Syndrome Policy Group](https://www.facebook.com/TheNationalDownSyndromePolicyGroup)

