



# Voices From Care Feedback Consultation on Electoral Reform

# Should the voting age be lowered to 16 in Wales?

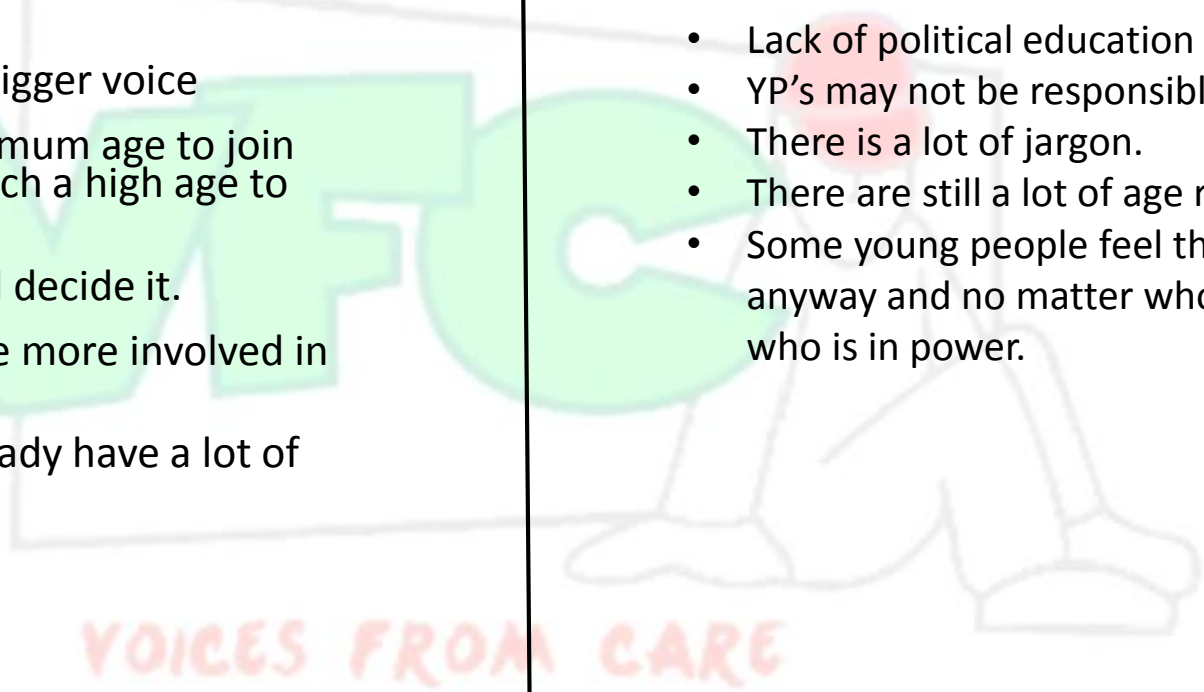
Do you think the voting age for welsh elections should be lowered to 16?

## Pros

- Young people will have more influence on their own future
- Care leavers will have a bigger voice
- Parties don't have a minimum age to join them so why is there such a high age to vote in comparison?
- It's our future, we should decide it.
- Will allow YP's to become more involved in the democratic system.
- At the age of 16 YP's already have a lot of responsibilities.
  - Marriage
  - Job
  - Army
  - Leave school
  - CBT Licence
  - Begin to learn to drive
  - Pay Taxes

## Cons

- Lack of political education
- YP's may not be responsible enough
- There is a lot of jargon.
- There are still a lot of age restrictions until you are 18
- Some young people feel that the voting system is fixed anyway and no matter who you vote for it doesn't change who is in power.



# Are you Registered to vote?

Yes

How did you register

- I received a letter in the post. Warning me that if I didn't register I would receive a fine so I registered.
- Five young people registered online using various devices such as on a mobile phone, the website and via a training provider.
- All of the young people that we asked were registered to vote.

No

What are the barriers? Would you register with help?

- Being homeless means you have no fixed address and therefore cannot register to vote.
- If you move around a lot or have no fixed address it may be almost impossible to register.
- If you are living abroad you cannot register.
- If you are a Traveller you cannot register or may find it difficult to.
- Not knowing how to register can prevent you from doing so.
- The language that is used is often complicated and hard to understand.
- If you have been hospitalized you will not be able to vote or have the help to do so.

# Do you think information about you from HMRC/DVLA for example should be used to automatically register you to vote?

## Yes/Pros

- Government should know your information anyway!
- Open Register?
- It improves your credit rating

## No/Cons

- Confidentiality? Could be given to anyone like 3<sup>rd</sup> parties.
- An opt out should be available
- What information will be shared?
- There is a risk of Identity theft.
- A person may be hiding from someone and not wish for there information to be on a public register or shared.
- People may be hiding from debt and not want their information shared.

VOICES FROM CARE

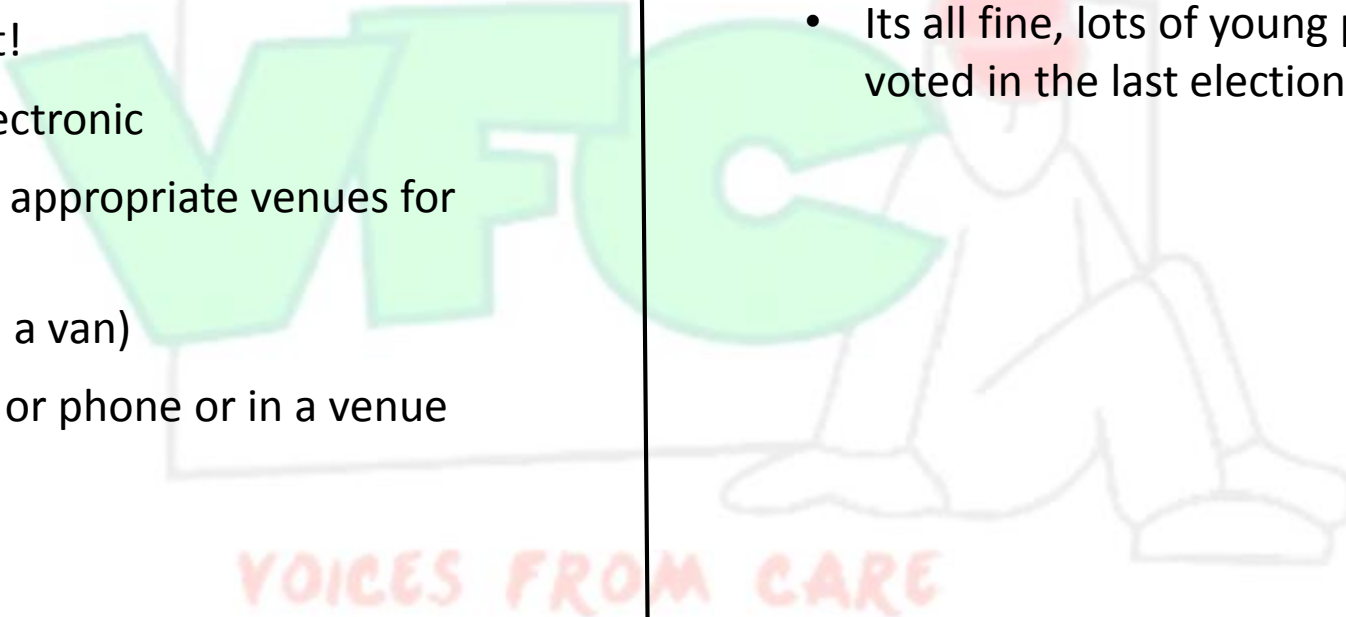
# Do you think we could change the voting system to get more people to vote. i.e. Tech, Places?

Yes (what/How)

- Online Voting (encourage young people to vote)
- First past the post!
- Digital system, electronic
- Polling stations in appropriate venues for young people.
- Mobile station (in a van)
- Voting on an App or phone or in a venue such as Nandos

No (Why)

- Online voting may be vulnerable to hackers
- Its all fine, lots of young people over the age of 18 voted in the last elections.



# What would you like to see from candidates standing for election

Why?

- If you feel you know your candidates you will feel more able and informed to vote for them.

What information, Background, Details?

- Just see more of them full stop
- Where are they actually from
- What do they stand for?
- Community events that they have been involved in.
- Hustings.
- See them in community
- Get to know their previous work.
- What would the candidate do as apposed to the party that they represent.
- What is the candidates experience of the real world (living in council housing)
- What is their star sign.

All Candidates should give a personal statement when they stand for election, that is available for every person to read. This includes local and national (Wales) level.