

HAVE YOUR SAY

The November Have Your Say survey asked questions about Independent Living. 33 people replied in writing and 9 more completed the survey on the phone. Here are the results.

Question 1 asked what the term ‘independent living’ means to you.

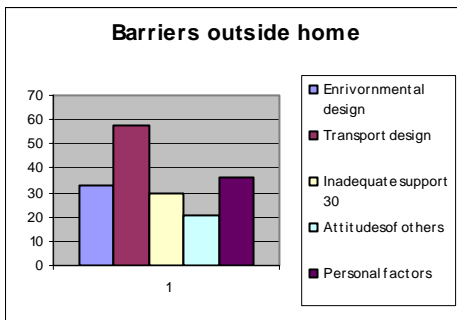
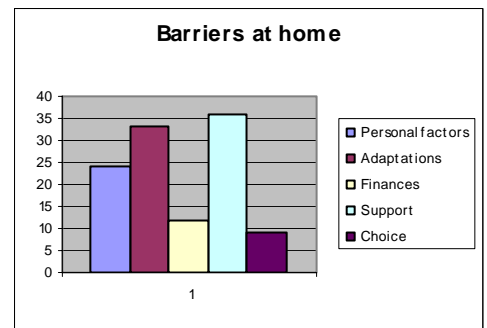
51% said it was living, doing things and making decisions **without the need for support**. 49% said it was having control and management of their own life and affairs **with support**, and with the right to decide when and from whom to receive help. 15% of people mentioned living in their own home or financial independence.

Question 2 asked if you felt you were living independently according to your definition and, if not, why not.

36% answered ‘yes’, 31% answered ‘no’ and 33% answered ‘partly’. 10% said they need substantial day-to-day help and 45% said they need occasional help. 14% indicated lack of money reduces their independence.

Question 3 asked about barriers to independence at home and outside.

Home barriers mentioned were personal ones like fatigue (24%), lack of adaptations like space for wheelchair access (33%), lack of money for adaptations (12%), insufficient support (36%), and limited choice (9%).



Community barriers mentioned were poor environmental design like blocked supermarket aisles (33%), problems with transport design (58%), inadequate support (30%), attitudes of others (21%) and personal factors like health (36%).

Question 4 asked what would make it easier for you to live independently and how the barriers could be removed.

19% mentioned transport improvements, 21% asked for more support, 59% spoke about access and environmental design improvements, 41% mentioned education and public attitude change, while 6% spoke of information and 16% of finances.

Please let the office know if you would like a full copy of the report which will also be sent to the Council and local businesses. Please also let us know if you would like to join the Have Your Say panel and take part in five or six surveys a year.

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