

EVERY VOTE COUNTS

Local Elections 2023

DAISY-BELLE DUMSDAY

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR & LOCAL ORGANISER

BLACKBURN FOODBANK

WHY LOCAL ELECTIONS?



**Blackburn with Darwen
Borough Council**



**BwD is a unitary
authority consisting
of 17 wards.**

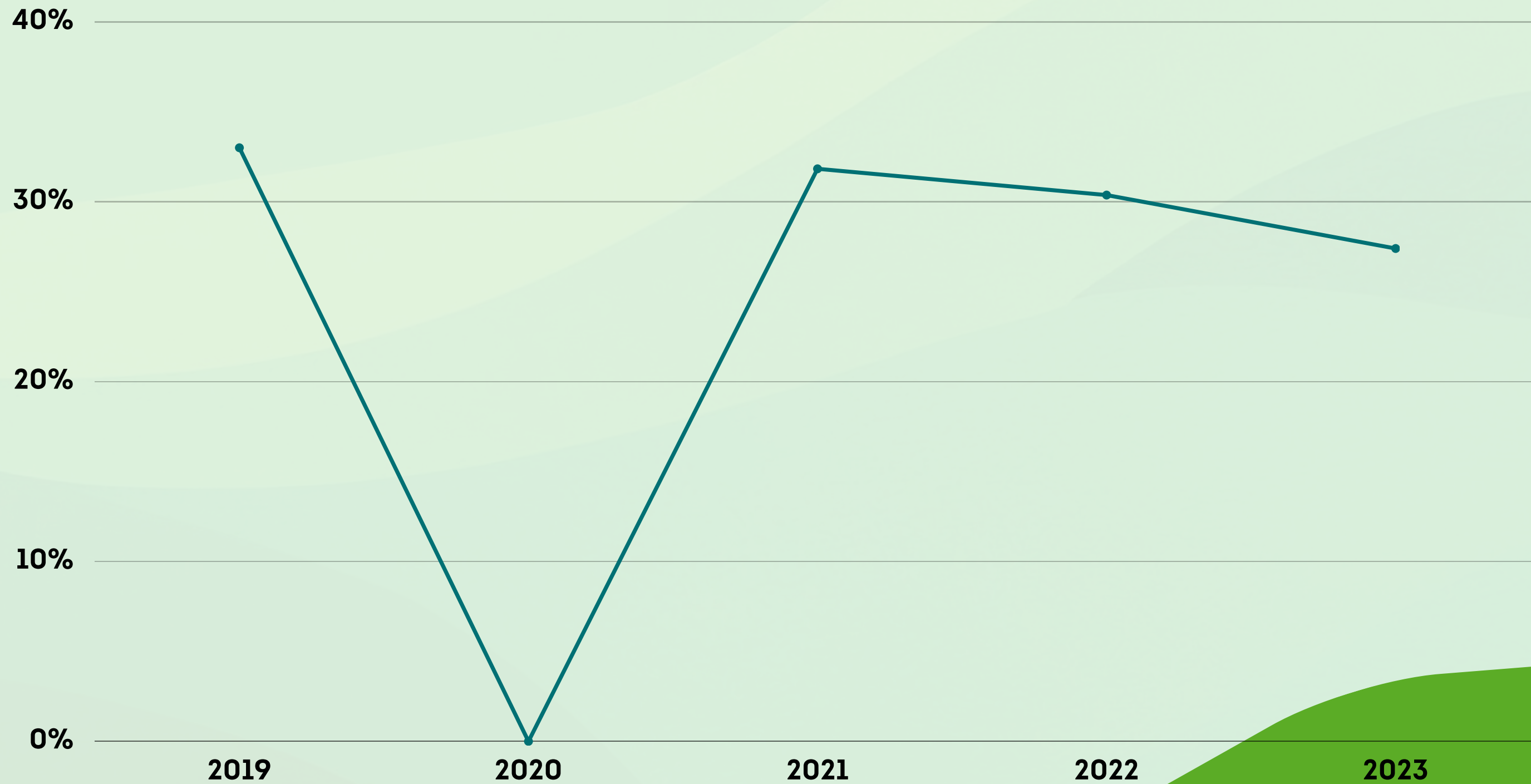


**Overall Voter
Turnout 2022¹**



**2.53 % decrease
compared to the 2019²
Local Elections.**

VOTER TURN OUT TRENDS



THE PLAN...

Hold an open house each day the foodbank was open for people to come and receive support registering to vote and applying for a voter authority certificate. All advertising materials were produced in the three main languages of Blackburn with Darwen; English, Urdu & Polish.

LOCAL ELECTIONS ARE COMING...

Ask yourself these three questions:

Do I know how or where to vote?

Am I registered to vote?

Do I have a voting ID?

If you answered "no" to any of these...
WE CAN HELP!

Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from the 3rd-21st April.

We can help you register and obtain a voter ID.

Refreshments provided

Blackburn Foodbank, Oakenhurst Road,
BB2 1SN



ZBLIŻAJĄ SIĘ WYBORY LOKALNE

Zadaj sobie te trzy pytania:

Czy wiem jak i gdzie głosować?

Czy mam identyfikator do głosowania?

Czy jestem zarejestrowany do głosowania?

Jeśli na któreś z tych pytań odpowiedziałeś „nie”...

możemy pomóc!

W każdy poniedziałek, wtorek, środę i piątek
od 3 do 21 kwietnia.

Pomożemy Ci zarejestrować się i uzyskać
identyfikator wyborcy

Poczęstunek zapewniony

Blackburn Foodbank, Oakenhurst Road,
BB2 1SN



بمقامی الیکشن آنے والے ہیں...

اپنے آپ سے یہ تین سوالات پوچھیں:

کیا میں جانتا ہوں کہ ووٹ کیسے یا کہاں دینا ہے؟

کیا میں ووٹ دینے کے لیے رجسٹرڈ ہوں؟

کیا میرے پاس ووٹنگ آئی ڈی ہے؟

اگر آپ نے ان میں سے کسی کو "نہیں" میں جواب دیا تو...
!ہم مدد کر سکتے ہیں

21-3 اپریل سے ہر پیر، منگل، بدھ اور جمعہ۔

ہم آپ کو رجسٹر کرنے اور ووٹنگ آئی ڈی حاصل کرنے میں مدد کر سکتے ہیں۔

ریفریشنٹ دیا جائے گا

Blackburn Foodbank, Oakenhurst Road,
BB2 1SN



Simple "how-to" guides created in order to enable all staff and volunteers to support clients.

Apply for photo ID to vote (called a 'Voter Authority Certificate')

Use this service to apply for a 'Voter Authority Certificate'. You can use it to vote in person in some UK elections and referendums. You cannot use it as proof of identification for any other reason.

This service is also available in [Welsh \(Cymraeg\)](#).

You only need to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate if:

- you do not have a passport/UK ID
- you no longer hold a valid passport or your ID
- the name on your photo ID is different to your name on the electoral register

You'll need to complete your application by 5pm on 25 April 2022 to get a Voter Authority Certificate for the 4 May 2022 elections in England.

Related content

[How to vote](#)

[Electoral system](#)

[Contact your local Electoral Registration Office](#)

Are you registered to vote?

This means your name is on the electoral register (or 'electoral roll'), to vote in elections and referendums.

☒ Yes, I am registered to vote

☐ No, I am not registered to vote

☐ I recently applied, but my registration has not been confirmed yet

☐ I'm not sure

[Find an anonymous elector](#)

[Continue](#)

Service help

Where are you registered to vote?

This helps us find you on the electoral register.

☒ England

☐ Scotland

☐ Wales

☐ Northern Ireland

☐ I'm a British citizen living overseas (including the Channel Islands or Isle of Man)

[Continue](#)

How do you plan to vote?

☒ In person, at a polling station

☐ By post

☐ Somewhere else (tell us why)

☐ By proxy

☐ I'm not sure

[Continue](#)

Do you have a photocard driving licence you can bring to the polling station?

This can be valid or expired, but must be because the DV or DVA.

☐ Yes

☒ No

[Which countries are in the EU?](#)

[Continue](#)

Do you have a passport you can bring to the polling station?

This card will be required, but must be issued in the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, or Commonwealth, British Overseas Territory or European Economic Area (EEA) country.

☐ Yes

☒ No

[What are EEA, Commonwealth and British Overseas Territories?](#)

[Continue](#)

Can you bring one of the following to the polling station?

This can be **valid or expired**.

Please, from multiple documents, select the one you can bring to the polling station.

☐ UK Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS) card

☐ UK Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)

☐ UK Defence Identity Card (DMIC) Form 500

☐ Northern Ireland Electoral Identity Card

☐ National ID from an EEA country

☐ Blue Badge

☐ Government travel pass for visitor or short-term stays (including hotel reservations, or classified persons' confidential copies)

☐ Northern Ireland Electoral Card

☐ No, I cannot bring any of these to the polling station

[Which countries are in the EEA?](#)

[Continue](#)

Based on what you've told us, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate

This is an identification document, specifically for not being person.

1 A Voter Authority Certificate is not intended for any other identification purposes.

[Continue](#)

What is the postcode for your registered UK address?

If you are overseas, this is your UK address (not your residential register).

Postcode

[Find address](#)

[What is your registered UK](#)

What is your name?

Enter your full name — not initials.

First name

Surname

Middle names (if you have any)

Other

Last name

CHILDREN'S CENTRES

Blackburn with Darwen has 8 children's centres across the borough. Pop-up sessions were organised to provide voting support. All advertising materials were produced in the three main languages of Blackburn with Darwen; English, Urdu & Polish.

LOCAL ELECTIONS ARE COMING...

Ask yourself these three questions: 

Do I know how or where to vote?

Am I registered to vote?

Do I have a voting ID?

If you answered "no" to any of these...
we can help you register and apply for a voting ID!
Just bring your national insurance number.

Wednesday 5th April

Highercroft Children's Centre 10:00-12:00
Wensley Fold Children's Centre 12:30-14:30

Wednesday 12th April

Shadsworth Children's Centre 10:00-12:00
Livesey Children's Centre 12:30-14:30

Thursday 13th April

Darwen Children's Centre 10:00-12:00
Hancock Street Children's Centre 12:30-14:30

Friday 14th April

Little Harwood Children's Centre 10:00-12:00
Audley & Queen's Park Children's Centre 12:30-14:30

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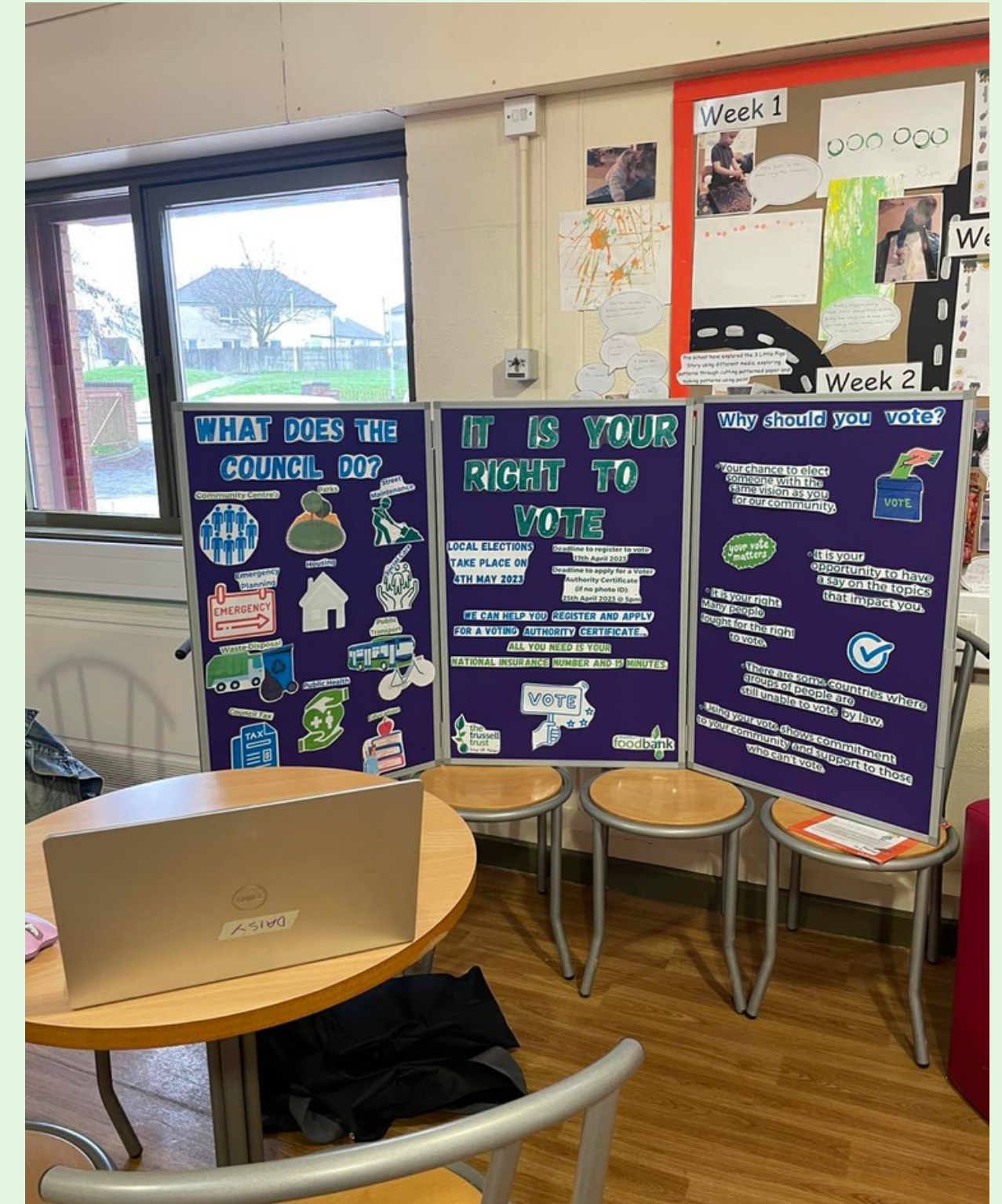
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CHILDREN'S CENTRES



CHILDREN'S CENTRES FINDINGS

Highercroft children's centre

nobody attended the children's centre during the time period.

Wensley Fold children's centre

12 people attended the children's centre during the time period. All 12 were already registered to vote, but 8 of those 12 were unaware of the new photo ID rule. One voter stated *"I have been voting for years, I know where my polling station is so I didn't think to read the polling card when it came through"*.

Shadsworth children's centre -

3 people were willing to discuss the local elections. One of the 3 were registered to vote and the outstanding 2 did not want to register.

Livesey children's centre -

Nobody attended the children's centre during the time period.

CHILDREN'S CENTRES FINDINGS

Shadsworth Children's Centre

3 people were willing to discuss the local elections. One of the 3 were registered to vote and the outstanding 2 did not want to register. When asked why, the feedback was:

“They say one thing and do another. There’s nothing that would persuade me to vote.”

“I just don’t understand so don’t bother. I also just don’t have the time” – when asked what could be done to help make the elections more accessible or easier to understand – *“Nothing, really. It’s a time thing”* Pointed out that postal votes are straight forward and easier to do. Still a **“NO”**.

“I am registered, but I never vote, never have” – when asked what might change the mind about using the vote – *“better upkeep on my council house, issues for ages with heating and damp”* Pointed out that voting in the local election could make this possible. Still no interest in voting. States would vote if these changes were made.

BLACKBURN FOODBANK RESULTS

Due to the low attendance rates of the children's centres, it was decided to cancel the final 4 drop-in sessions and focus on the clients of the foodbank. Myself and a volunteer dedicated two days to talking to the clients of the foodbank and encouraging people to register.

Over the course of the two days, 10 people were supported to register to vote and 3 of those 10 were supported to apply for a voter authority certificate.



Reasons for not voting included:

"They say will do loads of stuff and then do the opposite."

"Hard to keep up with. "

"They don't do anything for anyone so it's pointless. "

"I studied politics at uni, so I know how pointless it is. We are better with community based projects like the foodbank instead."

LEARNINGS...

- **Use your in-house resources first** - In reflection, I feel there could have been more success and higher numbers of registrations if the whole project had taken place at Blackburn Foodbank. The clients we have are trusting of the service and many of them already have a relationship with the staff and volunteers. The expansion into the children's centres would have been better placed further on into a project.
- **Approach** - I was not prepared for the amount of unwillingness to discuss the local elections or even the role of the council. I would change my approach to engage people by asking what changes they might like to see in their areas and let this lead organically to a conversation about voting.
- **Push-back** - Some people simply do not want to vote. The ability to realise when a conversation has nowhere to go or when someone is frustrated if you keep pushing.

REFERENCES

1 Lancashire Evening Post. (2022). Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council local elections 2022: results in full. [online] Available at: <https://www.lep.co.uk/news/politics/blackburn-with-darwen-borough-council-local-elections-2022-results-in-full-3683644> [Accessed 24 May 2023].

2 democracy.blackburn.gov.uk. (2019). Election results by party, 2 May 2019. [online] Available at: <https://democracy.blackburn.gov.uk/mgElectionResults.aspx?ID=1&RPID=335024> [Accessed 24 May 2023].