



## **Coronavirus and People with Learning Disabilities Study**

### **Wave 2 Results - June 2021**

#### **Briefing: Digital Lives**

#### **Background**

- This study is designed to systematically and responsively track the experiences of adults with learning disabilities through the COVID-19 pandemic across the four UK nations.
- There will be three 'Waves' of data collection over a 12-month period. Wave 2 data were collected between April and May 2021.
- The data in this briefing are taken from Wave 2 of the study. If you want to find out more detail about the people who took part and the Wave 1 findings, you can download the full report [here](#).
- There are two 'Cohorts' of participants in this study. In Wave 2:
  - In Cohort 1, 598 adults with learning disabilities were interviewed by researchers.
  - In Cohort 2, family carers or paid support staff took part in an online survey about the experiences of 273 adults with learning disabilities who they supported/cared for. These were likely to be adults with more severe to profound learning disabilities.
- This document presents selected information about the digital lives of people with learning disabilities from the Wave 2 results. You can download the Easy Read briefing about digital lives [here](#).

#### **Accessing the internet**

- 90% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 reported that they used the internet at home.
- 6% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 reported that they had the internet where they lived but that they didn't use it.

- 4% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 reported that they did not have the internet where they lived.
- 72% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 2 were reported to have the internet where they lived.
- 20% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 2 were reported to be able to use the internet without support where they lived. A further 24% were able to use the internet with support.
- 32% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 2 were reported to have a device that could access the internet that the people supporting them would use on their behalf.

### Access to a telephone to make calls

- 98% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 had a telephone that they could make calls on.
- 48% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 2 were reported to have a telephone that the people supporting them would use on their behalf.

### Internet use

- Figure 1, below, shows, for those people with learning disabilities who had the internet where they lived, what they were using it for during the data collection period (April-May 2021).

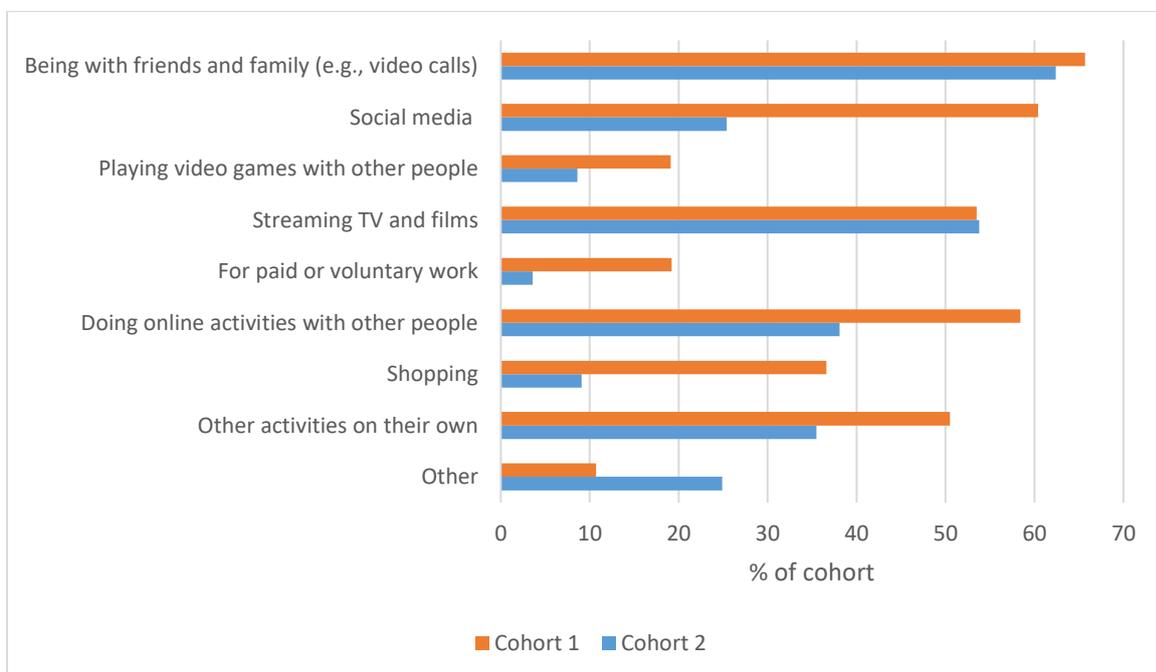


Figure 1. What people with learning disabilities use the internet for at the moment

- The most common uses for the internet for people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 were being with friends and family (e.g., video calls), going on social media, and doing online activities with other people.

- In Cohort 2, the most common uses for the internet for people with learning disabilities were being with friends and family (e.g., video calls), streaming television and films, and doing online activities with people.
- In Cohort 1, 114 people with learning disabilities (19%) were using the internet for work or volunteering. In Cohort 2, 7 people with learning disabilities (3%) were using the internet for work or volunteering.
- Figure 2, below, shows, for those people with learning disabilities who were reported to use the internet in both cohorts, how long they used it for on average each day for things other than work or volunteering; 60% of people in Cohort 1 and 42% of people in Cohort 2 used the internet for more than two hours per day.

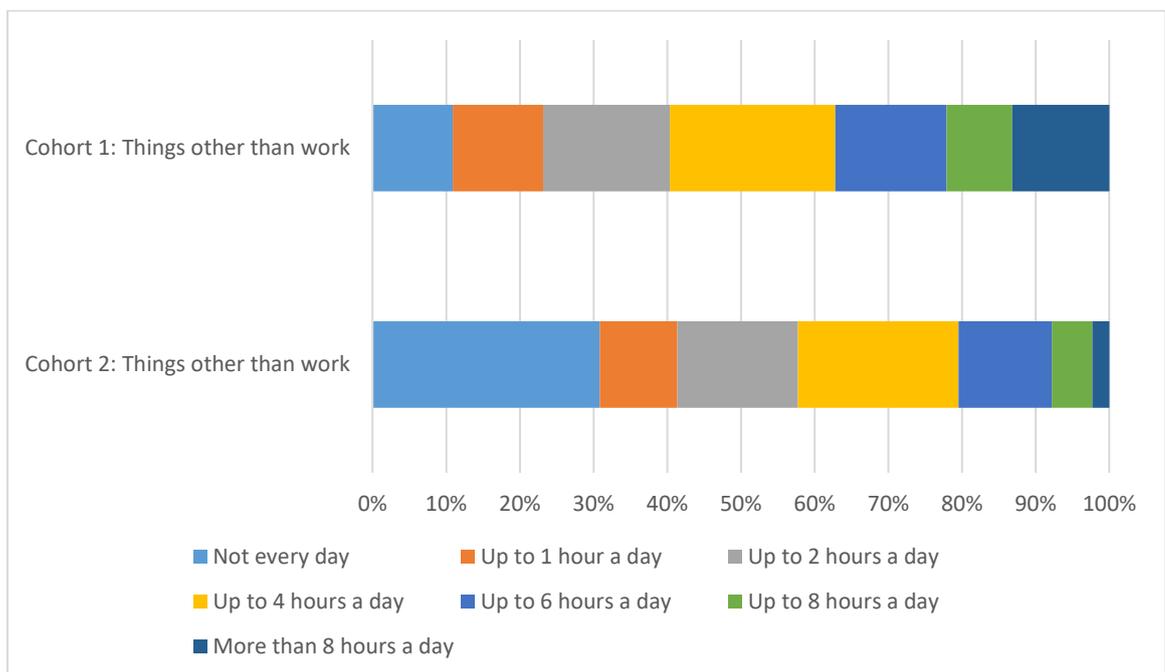


Figure 2. How long people with learning disabilities who used the internet would use it for each day

### Participation in online activities

- Figure 3, below, shows how people with learning disabilities in both cohorts felt about taking part in online activities.
- In Cohort 1, the majority of people with learning disabilities (56%) have been keen to take part in online activities the whole way through the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In Cohort 2, 37% of people with learning disabilities have never been keen to take part in online activities, and 24% have been keen the whole way through. Some people (14%) had never been offered online activities.

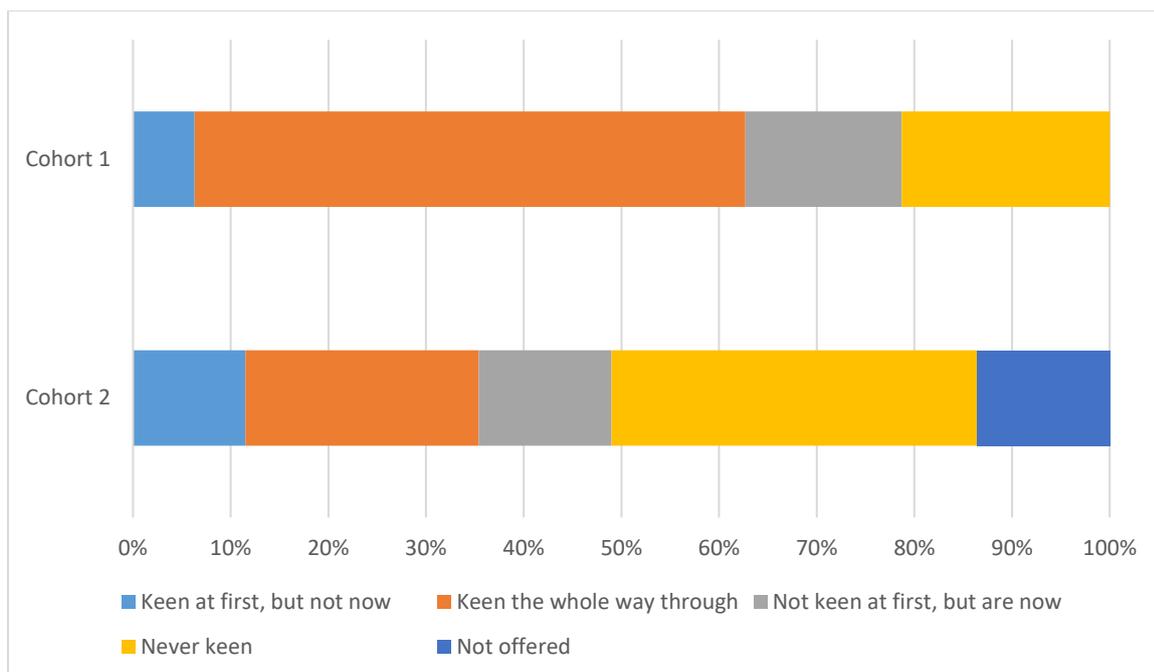


Figure 3. How people with learning disabilities feel about taking part in online activities

### What happens next?

The Wave 3 interviews and surveys will be starting in July 2021 for people who took part in the Wave 1 and/or Wave 2 interviews and surveys.

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