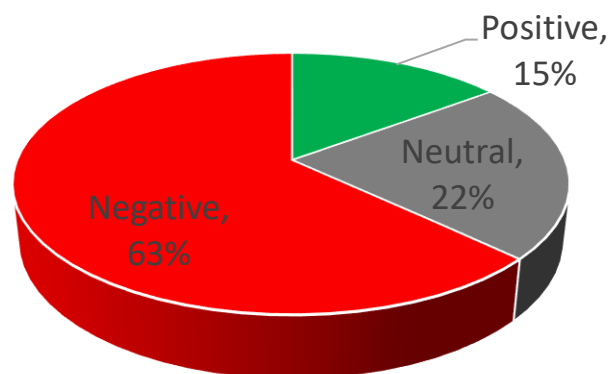


Disabled People in Bucks –Poll Report for w/c 8 June 2020

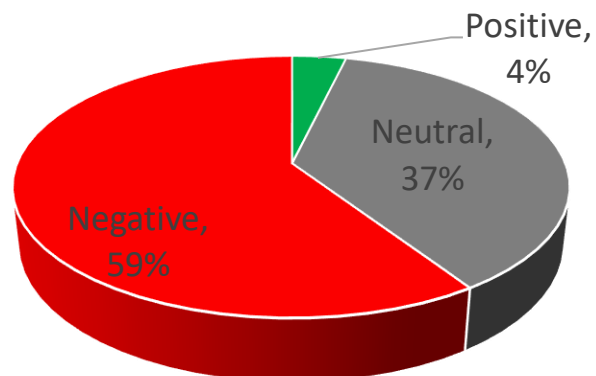
Question 1 - 'This week, what has been the impact of coronavirus on you personally?'

Two third of disabled people had negative impacts from corona virus and 22% of disabled people said 'no change'. Very few reported that they had positive experience.



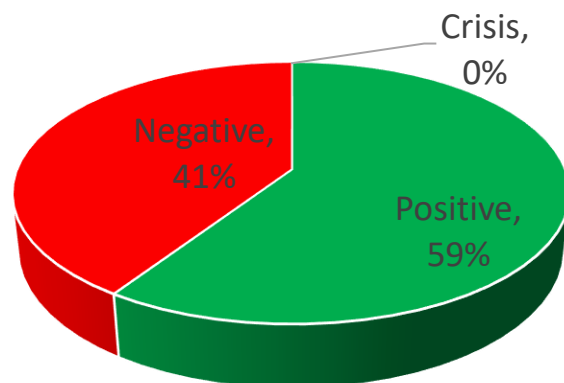
Question 2 - 'This week, what has been the impact of coronavirus on your family or household?'

The negative personal experience from corona virus is also shared with the same household members among disabled people, which is nearly 60%.



Question 3 - 'This week, have you been able to get enough food for you and your household?'

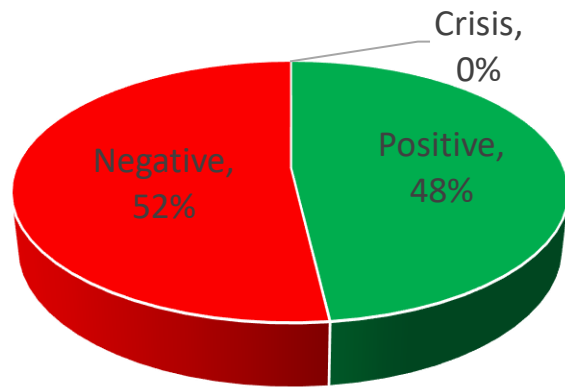
Although no one was in crisis getting hold of food for them and their household, quite many (41%) struggled obtaining one.





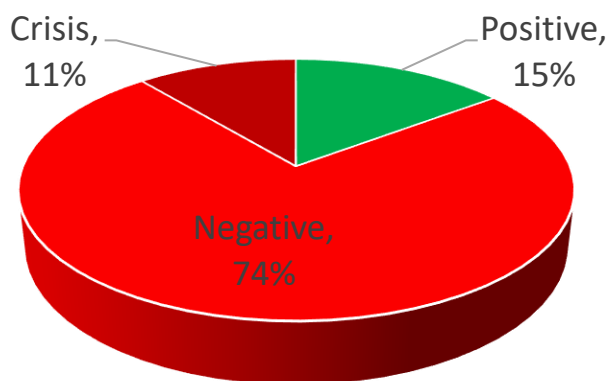
Question 4 - 'This week, have you had enough money to cope with your bills and other outgoings?'

Compared to their experience with obtaining food, more people (52% vs. 48%) had a problem with managing their bills and outgoings.



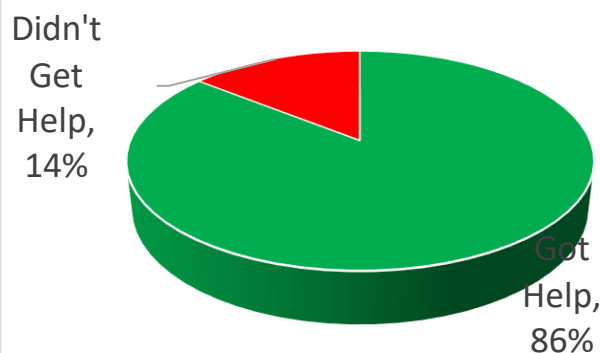
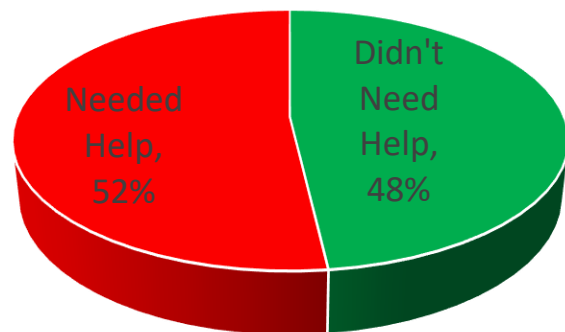
Question 5 - 'This week, how has you and your household's mental health been?'

Astonishingly, 11% of disabled people were in mental crisis. Given that there is only 15% of disabled people reporting positive mental health, poor mental health is ongoing issue related to the COVID pandemic for them.



Question 6 - 'This week, how much help have you and your household needed from outside bodies like the council or voluntary organisations?'

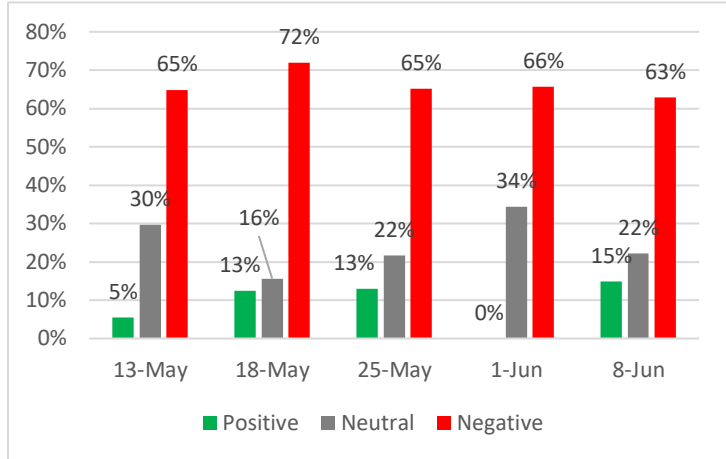
Around a half of disabled people needed help from council or voluntary organisations. While majority of those who needed help received help. But, handful disabled people (14%) did not get help from council or voluntary organisations at all even though they needed one.





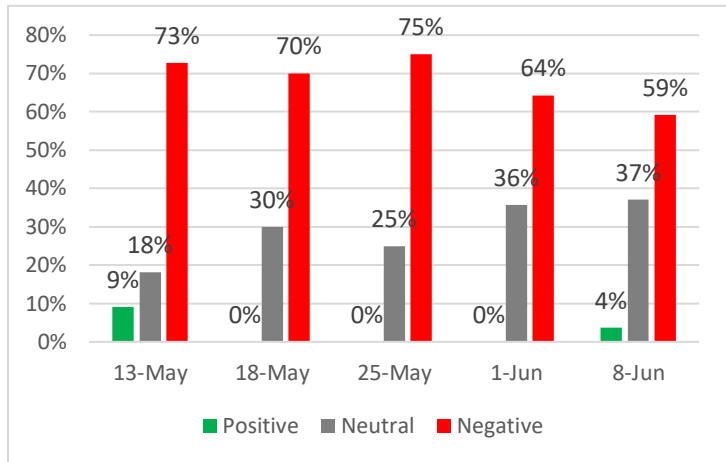
Impact on individuals personally (Q1) – Cross-weekly trends.

Since the beginning of the poll, similar numbers of disabled people have been experience negative impact from corona virus.



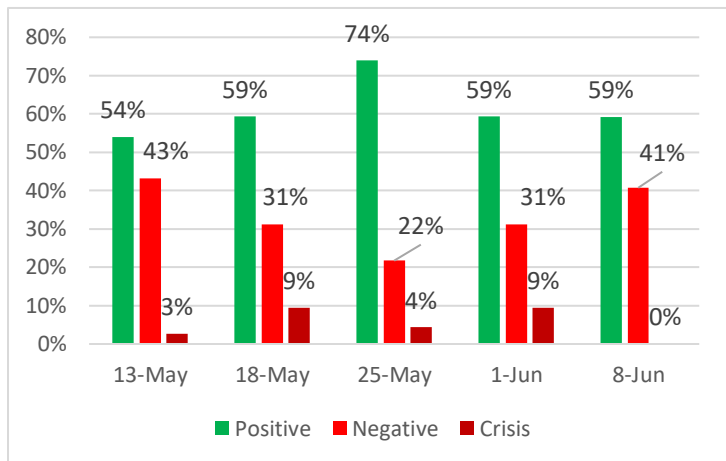
Impact on families or households (Q2) – Cross-weekly trends

Since the beginning of the poll, the negative impact from corona virus is experienced within the disable people’s household. But, the proportions reporting negative impact is declining in the recent two polls.



Availability of food (Q3) – Cross-weekly trends

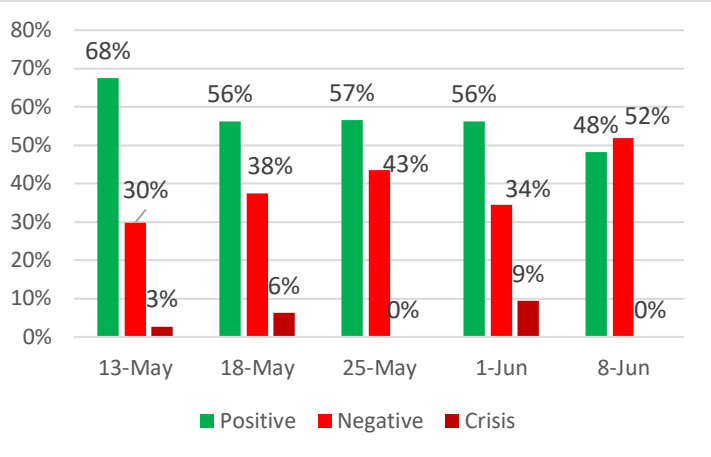
Despite the proportions being fluctuated by week, around 40 % people did not have enough food for them and their household, with some in crisis.





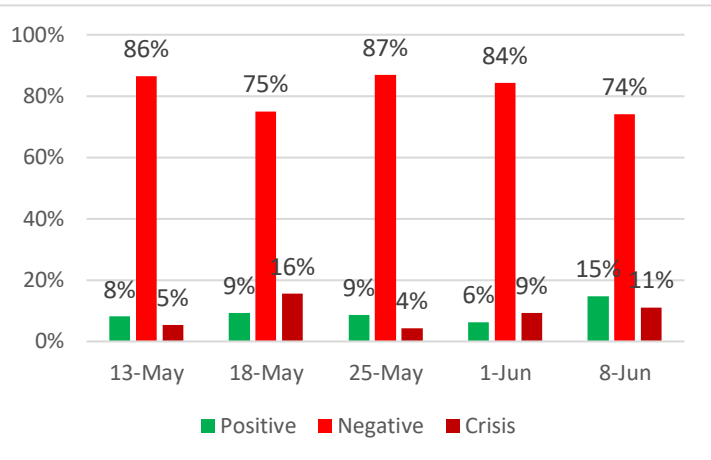
Availability of necessary money (Q4) – Cross-weekly trends

The poll trend shows disabled people who are experiencing troubles with managing money are steadily increasing, reaching to 52%.



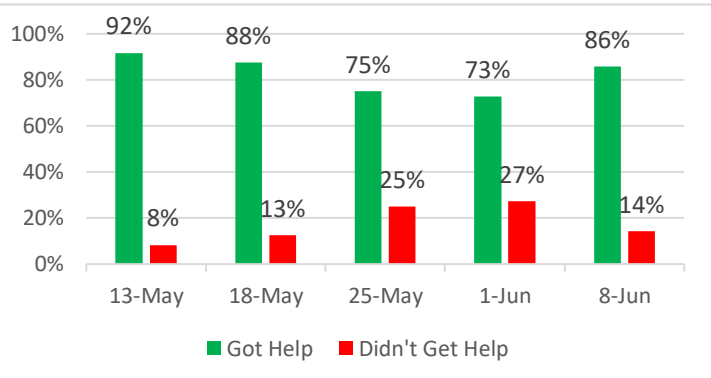
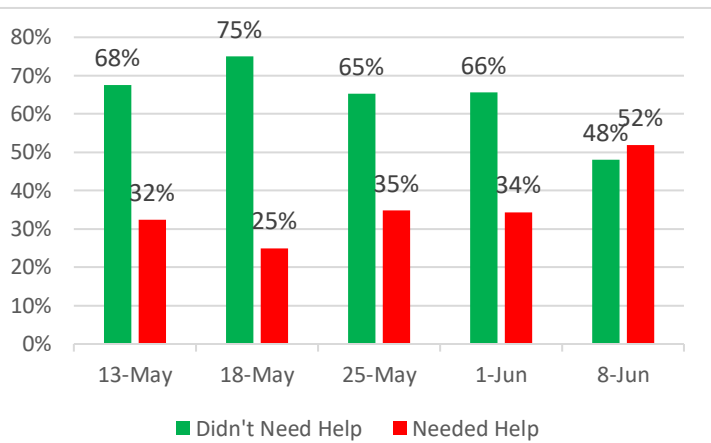
Mental health of household (Q5) – Cross-weekly trends

There is no clear weekly trend in mental health of disable people during the pandemic. Yet, overwhelming numbers of disabled people have poor mental health, with around 10% in crisis.



Numbers needing help and numbers getting it (Q6) – Cross-weekly trends

Compared to the last 4-week polls, more disabled people needed help in the latest poll. Although many who needed help received help, it has been always handful people left behind.



Conclusion:

The trend from the weekly poll clearly identifies two support that disabled people in Buckinghamshire would like to receive in the COVID19 pandemic: practical and emotional one. Obtaining food is a struggle for some, while money problems are becoming more common experience among disabling people. The mental health of disabled people has been poor, which need to be monitored and supported adequately. With increased needs for help, most of the disabled people's needs have been met. Nevertheless, there are always people left behind, which we need to keep our eyes.

Three key messages from the BuDS Insight Poll Panel for Buckinghamshire policy-makers and service providers this week are:

1. The mental health of disabled people is ongoing problems. As the pandemic prolongs, the poor state of mental health is likely to continue. Negative consequences from the long-term exposure to poor mental health state need to be considered and emotional support to be provided promptly.
2. Needs for practical help, especially financial problems, are to be identified and adequate help are to be delivered to disabled people.
3. There are always a handful of disabled people those whose needs are not met. This problem has to be resolved by addressing who they are, what their needs are, and what the obstacles are, e.g. accessibilities to resources.

We already know that disabled people are physically vulnerable to coronavirus. Minimising mental and practical strain will prevent them from falling into further crisis and maintain their health and well-being during the pandemic.