Facilitating engagement in social activities

What did we find?

Lack of opportunities for organised social participation through closure of traditional day centres without planned alternatives

Personalisation policies risk over-emphasis on individualised support at the expense of group activities

Friendship and peer-support groups provide vital networking opportunities to meet and connect with others in the community

What learning is involved?

Developing social skills and relevant tacit knowledge such as co-operation, trust and timeliness

> " **We're raising awareness of disability and inclusion and about the value that people bring to their communities...**
>
> Ellie, advocacy group "

What more can be done?

Local authorities and organisations could:

- create social environments that meet people's needs for social connectedness and belonging
- support skills such as travel training, guidance on relationships and keeping safe at night

> " **The idea is that the group, it becomes a friendship group, and then from having that new kind of safety net of a group of friends they become more confident and then ultimately they become more independent in their own lives.**
>
> Andrew, advocate "

Self-Build Social Care