

Tiphereth –Talking Mats Foundation Training

Two trainers from Talking Mats attended Tiphereth, Camphill to deliver Foundation training (October 2015)

24 staff attended and completed a short survey about involving the members in their planning and participation.

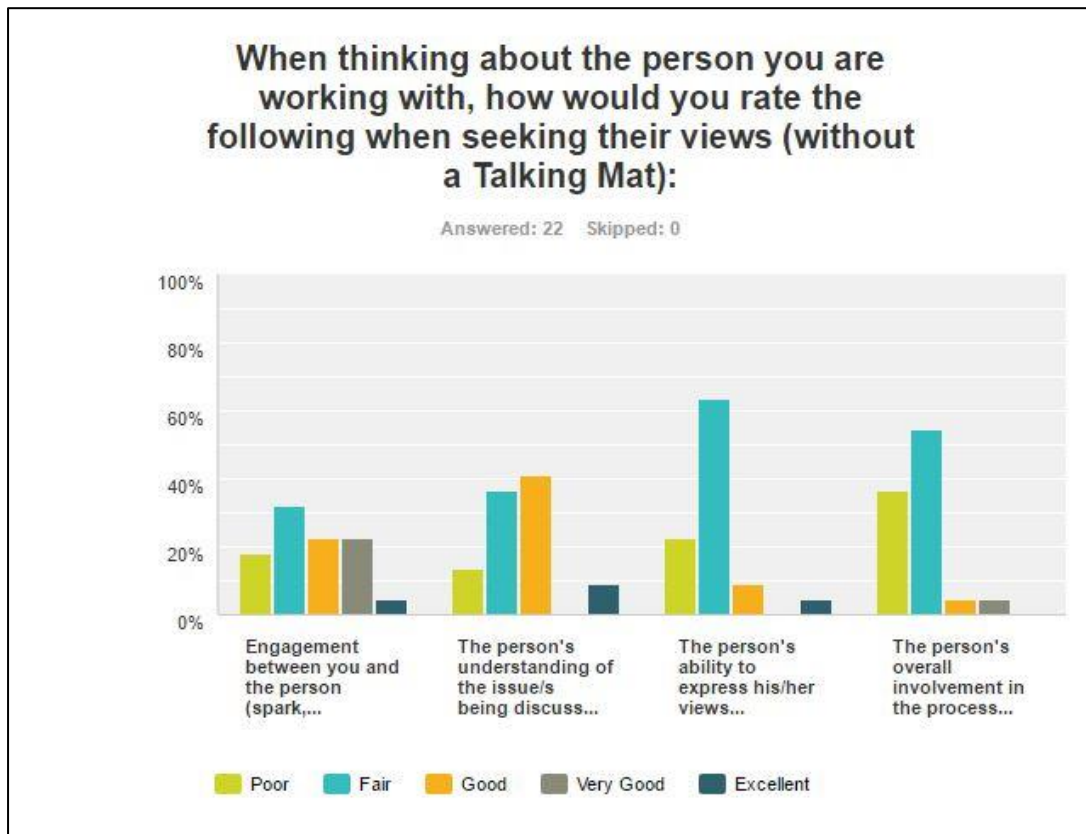
The members have diverse and often complex communication needs. Many have limited speech and rely on non-verbal communication and basic Yes/No responses.

The graph below summarises the responses.

Staff indicated that they would like to have a fuller understanding of how to engage members in communication. Some already use visual prompts and adapt their own language levels and can achieve engagement but others struggle to maintain engagement.

Some staff commented on the difficulty of knowing if a member understands what is being asked but most indicated that understanding was *fair* or above.

The majority of staff felt that capturing the views of members was *Poor or fair* and this also reflected how involved the member was in the planning process.

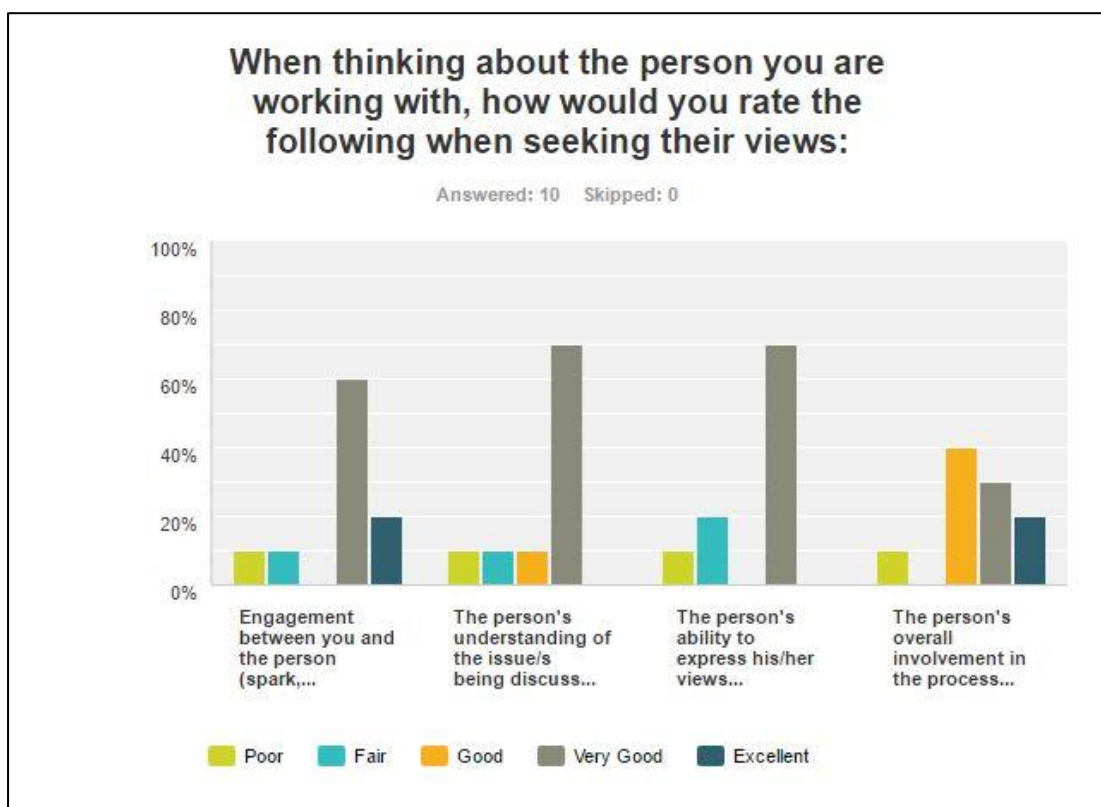


Follow –up day

Two trainers from Talking Mats returned to deliver a follow-up day to hear from staff about how they felt about using Talking Mats and provide an opportunity to share experiences. (25th July 2016)

10 staff attended and completed a follow up evaluation.

The graph below illustrates that most of the staff felt that their engagement with members had significantly improved. Using Talking Mats helped to focus members and engage them in the communication process. It also significantly improved their understanding as the visuals prompt and support understanding of what is being asked. They indicated that the members were able to express their views more effectively with a Talking Mat and so their participation and involvement in the planning process improved.



The results indicate that Talking Mats can significantly improve communication.