



Learning Disability England

Falling Through the Gaps

notes from the session 26.2.19

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Are there gaps in the advocacy in your area?

Who do you think is missing out on advocacy support or the chance to be part of self advocacy – any particular people or groups?

You said...

- Single parents
- Misunderstood people
- Some people that aren't known to the system – Not everyone knows where to find correct information
- People in schools and colleges
- Parents with learning disabilities
- People who live in residential homes
- People who live in rural areas (who live in the sticks)
- Families

- Women's groups
- Some organisations like "Galloways" or groups like travellers
- People in need of support (friends)
- Young people (teens to mid twenties)
- People in special schools
- People in specialist mental health hospitals
- People with complex needs

- People of a certain age
- Children
- People who don't belong to self-advocacy groups – they don't know where groups are
- Some people still don't know what self-advocacy is
- People at day centres
- People in ATUs

We also thought

- People who don't use words to communicate
- People who speak another language

How do we involve and hear from people who don't use words to speak?

You said...

- Facial expressions
- Body language
- Words and pictures
- Educate people correctly
- Communication boards
- Makaton / sign language
- Link individual self-advocates to self-advocacy groups

- Dance
- Writing on paper
- Drawing things that you understand
- Find out what a person needs to communicate differently
- Having people around / access to people who can help to communicate
- Knowing the person (Lip reading, sign language, body language)
- Using hearing aids / glasses/ computers)
- Using technology to assist with communication

We also thought –

- Using communication boards
- Eye pointer boards
- Using disability benefits for technology

Why do you think people are falling through the
gaps?

You said...

- Not enough money / funding
- Not enough jobs
- Families don't know where to go for help
- People aren't listened to
- People can't get the right support
- Education of staff to have the right skills
- Not knowing what's there for you
- Lack of expectations

- It depends who you talk to as to what help and support you get
- Lack of information
- We need people who are skilled
- Lack of understanding
- The way which things are governed – not a priority
- Decision makers aren't listening
- People feel like there's no one there for them
- Families need to understand more

- Not enough meetings
- Is it keeping peoples' interest? Is it varied?
- Lack of networking
- Advances in technology make socialising less attractive
- Negative press

We also thought-

- Lack of Confidence
- Insufficient Training
- Lack of communication from one group to another
- Lack of self determination

How will we make sure everyone gets the same chances and access?

You said...

- Spread out more
- Support areas where there is no advocacy
- Word of mouth – spread the news
- Build an equal society / treating people equally
- Convince the decision makers
- By ensuring as much as possible that information sent out is in a format that people can understand
- Make people feel welcome-feedback must be listened to
- Ensuring the principle of understanding

- Make times and locations as accessible as possible
- There is lots of good work going on across the country-
all organisations should involve all people
- Be learning
- Training
- Information about self-advocacy should be held in one
place
- Networking
- Research
- Use any means necessary

We also thought -

- Find alternative ways of funding
- Set up National and Regional Organisation to Support local Advocacy groups
- Set up a Supporters Network for supporters and PA's (Include those from Younger generation who want a career in being supporters)
- Train young self-advocates they are our future
- Develop an exchange scheme for advocates and supporters to work in other advocacy organisations
- Develop training for graphic facilitators