

# Chapter 5:

## Advocacy and self-advocacy

We asked people with learning disabilities what is important to them about speaking up for themselves and what they care about. They said:

- We need to raise awareness of our right to have our voice heard.
- We need access to easy-to-understand information to help us speak up.
- People with learning disabilities should be listened to. Their experience is more important than the qualifications of professionals.
- People with learning disabilities may have different ideas to their families.
- Let people with learning disabilities take risks.
- Language should be used that respects people with learning disabilities.
- People with learning disabilities should be paid for the work they do and the knowledge they offer.
- We need to help people with complex disabilities have their voices heard.



## UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

What people said they want with regards to having their voice heard is similar to the basic rights outlined in Article 5 and Article 17 of the UNCRPD.

Articles 5 and 17 focus on equality and respect for people with a disability.

We will use Articles 5 and 17 to guide our work on helping people with learning disabilities speak up for themselves and what is important to them.

There is easy read information on Human Rights **here**.



# Next steps

1. We need to help self-advocacy organisations grow and get stronger so they can help more people with learning disabilities speak up for themselves.
2. The Government needs to help self-advocacy organisations connect with each other so they can achieve big changes through the Disability Strategy.
3. The Government must work with people with learning disabilities before making decisions that affect the lives of people with learning disabilities.
4. People with learning disabilities should always be asked to lead, be part of or speak at events or meetings about people with learning disabilities.
5. We need to create one online space where people can access easy-to-understand information that will help them speak up for themselves.
6. People who plan services need to share good ideas about how self-advocacy groups can earn money to help them be more independent.
7. We need a quality scheme and mark that shows people with learning disabilities have helped to create information materials or led that work.  
  
The scheme and mark should also be used to show that people with learning disabilities have helped to create, or are delivering, a service.