



Having your say?

The same as you?
National Implementation Group

Report of the Advocacy Sub Group



Easy-Read Summary



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You can get copies of the full report *The same as you?* from:

Blackwell's Bookshop
53 South Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 7YS

If you ask, we can also provide copies of the report in the following formats from:

Scottish Executive
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Phone: 0131 244 4591
E-mail: ASPUnt@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

- Computer disc (complete report)
- The Internet (complete report)
- Website address (www.scotland.gov.uk)
- A summary of the report is available in easy read and some community languages

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The same as you? was published in 2000. It said what needed to happen to help people with learning disabilities have better lives.

Many people with learning disabilities have times when they feel they are not being treated in the right way.

- People get bossed around
- People get told what to do
- People sometimes get abused

When ***The same as you?*** was published it said people with learning disabilities need to be able to have their say. It said more people should get **advocacy**.

Advocacy

There are different kinds of **advocacy** which all try to make sure that people get treated the right way.

An **advocate** is someone who helps people with learning disabilities to say what it is they need and to make their own decisions.

Independent advocacy means that the advocate is working for the person they support. An independent advocate is not there to help carers or staff.

Groups like People First do **self-advocacy**. People First has staff and volunteers to support people in speaking up for themselves and for other people.

The Advocacy Group

In 2001 the Scottish Executive set up groups to look at how people with learning disabilities could get help to have better lives.

One of the groups looked at advocacy. There is a list of the people in the Group at the end of this report.

The Group looked at

- All the information they could find about advocacy.
- Stories that people told them about using advocacy.
- Answers they got to questions they sent to people with learning disabilities, family carers and staff.

The Group found out that lots of people do not understand what advocacy is.



The Group made a list of things that need to happen so that people with learning disabilities can get help to have their say when they need it.

A lot of people need to work together to make these things happen, including

- The Scottish Executive
- Local councils
- The Health Service
- The Care Commission
- NHS Quality Improvement Scotland
- Social Work Services Inspectorate
- Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance
- Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability
- People First
- Local advocacy projects

The list of things that need to happen

Information about advocacy should be easy for everyone to understand and easy for people to get hold of.

More people should be told about advocacy.

People should be told about **independent advocacy** and what **independent advocates** do and don't do.



Advocates should be properly trained.

Staff who work with people with learning disabilities should get training to help them understand what advocates do.

People should be able to have a choice of advocacy projects and a choice of advocates.

There should be advocates for children, young people and older people.

People should be able to get advocates to help them deal with things like housing and transport, not just health.

People should be able to meet their advocate in places that are private and comfortable.

Advocacy should help people to get more involved in things that are important to them.

Advocacy projects for people with learning disabilities should link up with other advocacy projects.

