

## Why advocacy and support in the community are important?

People First (Self-Advocacy) thinks advocacy and support in the community is an important campaign because without this we are cut off and excluded from all parts of society.



You cannot take part in the life opportunities that are open to everybody else. Cuts in local authority funding mean that many people are losing their support.



## Campaigning for advocacy is important because:

- People sometimes need an advocate to help them to say what they want in a way that others will understand.
- People sometimes need an advocate to understand information and make decisions.
- It is important to have an advocate on hand if someone has been a victim of abuse or crime. This can be to support them to understand it and to report it.



- It is important that a person has an advocate that is independent and is trying to get the best for the person that they are working with. This is not the same as a social worker because they are not independent as they work for the local authority.



- It is important that people with learning difficulties know where they can get support from an advocate that has experience of working with people with learning difficulties.



- It is important that people can get support from an advocate when they need it.



- It is important the people with learning difficulties are included in planning the advocacy services in their local area.



## **Campaigning for support is important because:**

- Without good support people can feel confused, and sometimes can't see when their problem gets so bad that it becomes an emergency.



- Without good support it can be difficult to have control over your own money. This can lead to money abuse or debt.



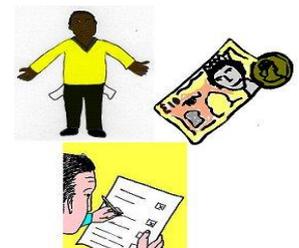
- Some people need good support to get a job, stay in a job and move forward in a job.



- It is important to know where you can get the right support if you need it.



- Some people need support when they are going through an assessment. They need independent support to prepare and understand what the assessment means.



- Supporters need to have the skills to support on difficult issues. For example this could be support around assessments or getting a pension.



- Support can build confidence in a person. This is good because it means that their issues will be taken seriously and their views will be respected.



- Having a personal carer is not the same as having a supporter. This needs to be understood by service providers and local authorities.



- Sometimes one-off support on an issue is not good enough. This is because all issues may be linked together. A person might need someone to support them on all of the issues.

