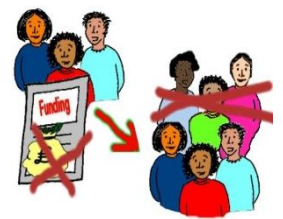


Why funding for local user led self-advocacy groups is important

People First (Self Advocacy) thinks that funding for local user led self-advocacy groups is an important campaign area.

This is because they support people with learning difficulties to get rid of barriers that stop people being a part of society. They also support local people with learning difficulties to have a voice and speak up.

Over the last few years local authorities have cut funding for self-advocacy groups. Some groups have even closed down because of this.



We are running this campaign because:

- Local authorities have a duty to talk to people with learning difficulties on what they plan to do and hear what we have to say. Without a self-advocacy group this does not happen in an independent way.
- Self-advocacy groups can often be the only contact that people with learning difficulties have. This can be to meet people, speak up, feel valued, campaign, get advocacy and support, and be part of their local community.



- It is a chance for local disabled people to talk about issues or worries on the things that matter to them. It is a way of telling local policy and decision makers what is happening.



- Self-advocacy groups are a big building block for the lives of people with learning difficulties in an inaccessible world. It is easier to speak up as a group than on your own.

