Why Easy Read is Important

People First (Self Advocacy) thinks that Easy Read is an important campaign area because this gives people with learning difficulties choice, control and independence.

This means people can make decisions themselves and play an equal part in society.

We are running this Easy Read campaign because:

- People with learning difficulties do not have a voice if they cannot understand information. It means that we do not have the power or voice to make our own choices.

- Without information in Easy Read people with learning difficulties can feel frustrated, angry, worried, stressed, alone, not valued or respected.
• Information sent by government offices is often not accessible to people with learning difficulties. If they know about a person’s **impairment** they should also know about their access needs. They have a duty to give information in an accessible format.

**Physical impairment:** this affects the way that you can move and get around.

**Sensory impairment:** this affects your senses, like touch, smell, being able to see and hear.

**Cognitive impairment:** this affects the way that the brain works. It might affect the way that people remember things, how they speak and how they make decisions.

• Many organisations and government departments still think that Easy Read is either putting things in large print or a summary.

• We want national Easy Read standards set down by people with learning difficulties who are the experts.
**Real life example:** a member of People First got a letter about their Disability Living Allowance; it was not in Easy Read. This meant he could not understand the information or do anything about it. This led to him losing his benefit, getting into debt, and losing his choice, control and independence.