

“Your Say” Advocacy Service **Freelance Advocate Profile.**

“Your Say” offers a professional Advocacy service to people of all ages with a learning disability.

Advocacy is the relationship between one individual and another or others, which empowers individuals and groups to represent their own views and wishes or which seeks to provide this voice on another’s behalf.

“Your Say” believes that Advocacy is an essential service for people with learning disabilities who are amongst the most marginalized groups in society. We undertake our Advocacy relationships in a professional manner which is both creative and service user led.

Our underpinning philosophy is that of equality and in this respect we strive to ensure that individuals are given a real opportunity have a voice in the decision making affecting their lives.

“Your Say” is not a traditional Advocacy service as we make a charge for the work we undertake. This raises issues of independence and of impartiality and for this reason the team of Advocates all work on a Freelance basis, undertaking specific commissions as requested and are not employed by “Your Say”.

Freelance Advocates are responsible for ensuring they are adequately insured for the work they undertake and they are responsible for their own Tax and National Insurance. However they receive the full support of the Advocacy office and will receive training and supervision appropriate to the work they are undertaking.

All Freelance Advocates will be expected to sign up to a contract of agreement between themselves and “Your Say” and work under the principals of “Your Say’s code of practice.

Advocates need to be able to speak up and represent others but also need to have the skills to support individuals and groups with learning disabilities to speak up for themselves. Advocates are creative problem solvers, but also know when to stand back and let others resolve their own issues. Advocates are able to be objective and to look with an unbiased perspective at individual and collective service provision and be able to offer constructive criticism and suggestions.

As “Your Say” works exclusively in the area of learning disability skills in facilitated communication and experience of working with this service user group is also an advantage.

If you believe that you have all or some of the skills detailed above – or are willing and keen to develop these skills – then please complete the application form or ring “Your Say” to find out more.

Kirstie Mann
Manager.