

Enabling people to have a voice



What did we find?

Peer advocacy – people with shared experiences, positions and values coming together in groups to talk and listen to each other and speak up

Self-advocacy – individuals communicating their own interests, desires, needs and rights

Advocacy organisations have declined in number through lack of funding and are unevenly distributed geographically

What learning is involved?

Self-advocacy organisations are effective places for learning skills and building confidence to speak up, make decisions and raise awareness

Potential new roles for people with learning disabilities as mentors, organisers and trainers

Peer learning – tackling new challenges by giving and receiving emotional support, encouragement and practical information



It starts with friendships, so in order to speak up for yourself, if you have a strong support peer group or you are able to do the basics, like form a friendship, that helps you to be able to speak up.

Casey, advocacy group manager



What more can be done?

Organisations could:

- facilitate and promote the benefits of peer and self-advocacy

Local authorities could:

- support and promote advocacy and the organisations that facilitate it

