



Choice Advocacy



Choice Advocacy is a 6 year old voluntary organisation that has been set up in response to the constant demand for advocates for people with learning disabilities within the Bradford District. Choice Advocacy consists of a small staff team of a Director, Operational Manager (job share), 8 advocates and three independent mental health advocates (IMCA's) Also the Management Committee is made up of a mixture of people with learning disabilities and professionals within the field.

Choice Advocacy's Key Values are:

- Everyone has the right to be listened to and feel respected
- Everyone has the right to be involved in decisions which affect their future
- Every has the right to aim for something they aspire to, even if other people don't agree with them
- Everyone has the right to take risks
- Everyone has the right to contribute to and participate in society

The purpose of advocacy is to enable people to speak up for themselves or to act on behalf of them, possibly with the support of their advocate. It is about making sure that the rights and interests of such individuals are heard and appropriately responded to by service providers, carers, relatives and friends and other key agencies such as health, housing, children's social care and the criminal justice system.

Choice Advocacy's sole purpose is to provide advocacy services for people with learning disabilities. The majority of issues that are affecting people with learning disabilities who we advocate for are housing, daytime opportunities, adult protection and health related issues. However we also advocate for people who have issues around Parenting, Mental Health, Money, Relationship and Crime.

Choice Advocacy is currently funded by both statutory bodies and grant giving trusts. We were granted charitable status in August 09.