

About Skills for People

Skills for People is a user-led, voluntary organisation based in Newcastle upon Tyne. Since 1983 we have been supporting disabled people to speak up and take more power and control over their own lives. Our work is led by disabled people and their experiences are at the heart of all we do. More information can be found on our web site www.skillsforpeople.org.uk

Our dream is a world where:

- All people are valued and treated fairly.
- People are not left out because they are different.
- Disabled people are strong, confident and living the lives they choose.

Our aims are to enable disabled people to:

- Lead rich and independent lives.
- Be living the lives they choose.
- Be included in the communities of their choice.
- Be strong, confident and able to speak up for themselves.
- Have more control over the organisations which affect their lives.
- Tell others about the challenges faced by disabled people.

About the job

We are recruiting a Project Worker to be based in Redcar and Cleveland.

The post is a part time post of 17.5 hours per week. The post will involve working with people with learning disabilities; and in particular supporting Independent Voices.

- The postholder will be expected to work from home, although an office may be provided at some later stage.
- The postholder will be expected to have access to a car for work.
- The postholder will be expected to travel across the North East with very occasional national travel.
- The postholder will be expected to work flexibly with some evening work and occasional weekends.

About Independent Voices

Independent Voices is a self advocacy group of people with learning disabilities (formally Redcar and Cleveland Parliament of people with learning disabilities), based Redcar and Cleveland that is supported by Skills for People. Independent Voices meet weekly to discuss issues of importance and plan the direction of their work.

The work of Independent Voices is based on the views of many people with learning disabilities across the area, collected through a series of 'roadshows'. From these consultations, the group decided to focus its work on four themes:

- Keeping Safe / Hate Crime
- Friends and Relationships
- Keeping Healthy
- Good Support

Independent Voices use their creative skills and knowledge to design courses, training and presentations to deliver clear messages about the needs, wishes and views of people with learning disabilities to help shape future service provision, improve practice and create inclusive communities. Previously training and awareness raising has been provided to health and social care providers, hospital staff, doctors, primary school children, local authority and voluntary sector workers and people with learning disabilities.

Independent Voices aims to:

1. Improve the skills and confidence of local people with learning disabilities to speak up and have an influence over the services which affect them.
2. Improve access to information relating to learning disability services and other local resources which might improve the lives and health of people with learning disabilities.
3. Inform health, social care and local government professionals about the important issues that affect people with learning disabilities, and to influence the future commissioning of services to meet their needs and wishes.
4. Provide peer support for local people with learning disabilities / self advocates.
5. Provide support for local people with learning disabilities in their leadership roles and provide role models for local leaders with learning disabilities.