

About Skills for People in Redcar and Cleveland

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 meets 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 members 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, in order to help shape services , improve practice and create more inclusive communities.

Training and awareness raising have been provided to health and social care service providers, hospital staff, doctors, primary school children, local authority and voluntary sector workers, people with learning disabilities.

Independent Voices aims

1. To 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. To 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. To 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. To provide peer support for local people with learning disabilities / self advocates.
5. To provide support for local people with learning disabilities in their leadership roles and provide role models for local leaders with learning disabilities.

Working with individuals – Planning for a Good Life aims to:

1. To plan with individuals with a learning disability, with or without a budget. To ensure people are living the life they chose.
2. To provide/create community connections by mapping what is happening across the area.
3. To support with finding volunteer roles within the community.
4. To sign post to other agencies if needed for extra support.
5. To undertake work to minimise social isolation
6. Work with provider organisations around personalisation, and person centred support.

This post is for up 17.5 hours per week, but we are open to flexible working / job sharing. We hope that the successful applicant(s) will be able to work from home, but this is not essential and we will discuss this with applicants individually. The post holder will be required to work at various locations across the borough and attend our head office in Newcastle upon Tyne regularly.