****

**Volunteer Self-Advocacy Support Worker.**

As part of our advocacy work we support self-advocacy within the Learning Difficulties (LD) community. We aim to ensure that people with learning disabilities have a voice and opportunity to feed into and shape learning disability services and priorities in York. We have recently reviewed this work, and will now be focussing on two areas:

1. **Build a network of partners to collate wider themes**

We will engage with a wide range of LD service providers and other voluntary sector organisations with a view to collecting regular data on themes raised by staff and service users, collate these to identify trends and make use of appropriate platforms to highlight trends. We will also support providers where necessary to develop SA skills and knowledge within their settings, either in the form of direct training or a wider training event.

1. **Self Advocacy Forums**

We will facilitate two forums a year, and one Christmas Social, to enable clients who access a range of service providers to come together and discuss issues that concern them.

We are looking for volunteers to support the self advocates to participate fully in forum meetings, and also to assist with the collection of themes from a network of organisations providing services and support to the LD community. You might also work with organisations to support the development of self-advocacy within their settings. As part of this role you may also be required to attend meetings and information events relevant to the issues self-advocates are raising.

**Requirements and Skills:** You should have good communication skills and any experience of communication methods would be useful but not essential, for example Makaton, lip-reading. This role will suit someone who has a fixed regular time that they wish to volunteer in.