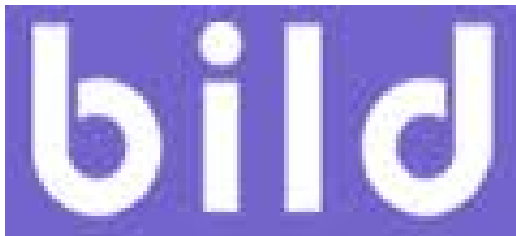


People with Learning Disability - from service user to citizen?



Alex McClimens - Sheffield Hallam University
Darren Lee - Self Advocate



The Rights Paradox

Thomas Paine (1791) The Rights of Man

UN (1948) Universal Declaration of Human Rights

UK (1998) Human Rights Act

UN (2007) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

UK (2010) Equality Act

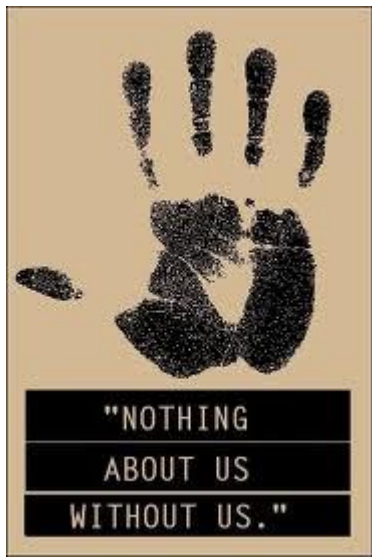




Epsom, June, 1913



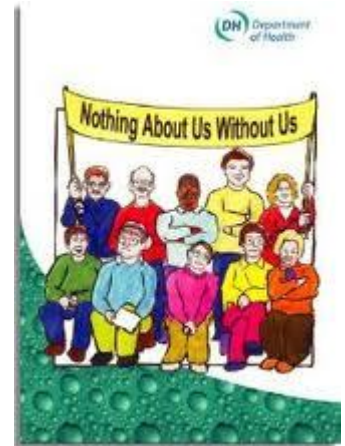
Afghanistan, April, 2014



People first



**PEOPLE
FIRST**



**PUT
PEOPLE
FIRST!**



Advocacy attempts to ensure that people who have difficulty in making their voice heard on issues of importance to them get an opportunity to express their views, particularly when decisions are being made about their lives.

Advocacy is a process of empowering people

- to find appropriate information
- to engage with their rights and responsibilities
- to enact choice



Learning Disability Partnership Boards were introduced by Valuing People (DH, 2001) and required local authorities to have representation from people with learning disabilities and carers too.



But there are concerns over symbolic representation and tokenism (Fyson et al, 2004)



The Sheffield LD People's Parliament was an attempt at providing a forum for debate on learning disability issues and the MPPs represented particular areas of concern.

Currently a new model is being discussed that will advocate for the wider concerns of people living with 'protected characteristics' (including but not restricted to 'disability').

'In a really equal democracy, every or any section would be represented, not disproportionately, but proportionately. ... Unless they are, there is not equal government, but **a government of inequality and privilege**: one part of the people rule over the rest: there is a part whose fair and equal share of influence in the representation is withheld from them, contrary to all just government, but, above all, contrary to the principle of democracy, which professes equality as its very root and foundation'.

Ch. VII: Of True and False Democracy; Representation of All, and Representation of the Majority only (1861:248)



The Future Now

?

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