

Speakup Self Advocacy

- We speak up for ourselves
- We make information friendly
- We employ people with learning disabilities
- We help the council and the government to plan
- We organise forums
- We organise conferences
- We train people
- We work with professionals

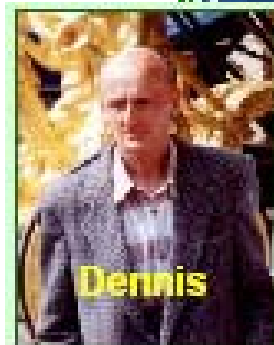


Speakup Self Advocacy

- Speakup started in 1988
- Val, Gladys, Dennis and Syd started Speakup
- They went down to London to meet People First to talk about self advocacy
- Then they organised a big meeting in Rotherham, 60 people came to decide what to do next
- At the meeting 12 people were voted on to the committee
- They had 2 advisers called Annie and Gill



Val Sid Gladys



Dennis



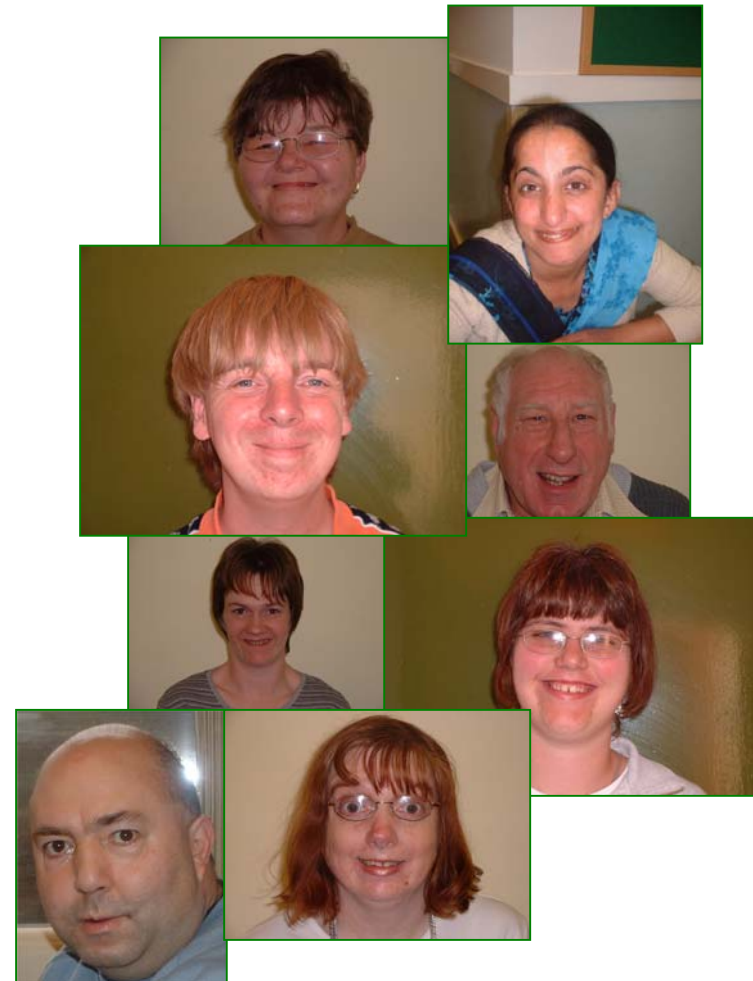
Speaking Up For Ourselves

- We stand up for our rights
- We speak our own minds
- We make our own choices
- We tell people what we want
- We organise and go to meetings and conferences
- We work on our life plans and achieve them



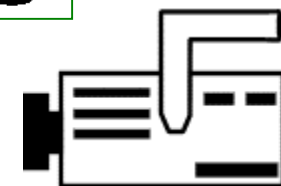
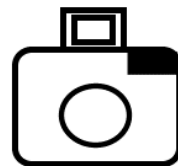
Speakup - Out And About In Rotherham

- Soon after Speakup was started, advocacy groups were started in the day centres too.
- These groups are going well and attend the advocacy sub groups, the Peoples Forum and Regional Forums.
- The Eastwood Action Group meets every Tuesday at the Unity Centre.
- Wath and Maltby Speakup groups meet in the day centres.
- Kelford school, RCAT and Dearne Valley Colleges all join in advocacy too.



Making Information Friendly

- We make information friendly
- We write the minutes of meetings in plain English
- We make DVD's
- We use words we all understand -no jargon
- We use pictures and signs
- We speak and communicate clearly



Some Of The Work We Have Done

- We have made over **80** videos and DVDs
- We have made the Rotherham Partnership Board minutes friendly
- We have introduced the Scrutiny Panels to plain English
- We worked with the DWP to make an easy to read version of the “Employment Opportunities for Disabled People” report
- We made the Valuing People Support Team’s “10 top tips” user friendly



Some Of The Work We Have Done

- We worked with CSCI on the “Real Voices, Real Choices” report
- We work with SSI to provide plain English and user led inspections of services
- We have worked jointly with SureStart and Steps on a national parenting project (including a groundbreaking DVD)



Employing People

- We provide real jobs for real people
- We value everybody ... we are all equal
- We have 31 people working part time
- 3 people are employed as self advocates
- 8 people also support the work we do

WHAT SOME PEOPLE SAID:

“Speakup has given me a job that I enjoy. Going to forums has helped me, giving me the confidence to speak up and it has given me a feeling of worth. It is keeping me off the streets. Working with the Speakup team has helped me become independent. I have looked after people when they are poorly.”

“I have enjoyed making new friends at Speakup. I have made things for craft kits. I enjoy working on the computers and have sent emails. I have been involved in a project about bungalows. I was involved in the safety First video and enjoyed doing all the dangers in the safety First video. At the moment I am doing a project about life and I am enjoying and learning from it.

I have been at Speakup since June 2005 and I have been employed by wage since May 2006. The way I look at disabilities and people with problems has changed thanks to Speakup and the hard work they have done. I have learned a lot about myself, the people around and the work that is done here. I now have a reason to get up in the morning because now I feel employed.

Robin Flute



Sharon Nicklin



David McCormick



Helping To Plan Services

- We sit on Partnership Boards
- We sit on Scrutiny Panels
- We try to make transport better
- We have a regional representative on the National Forum For People With Learning Disabilities
- We sit on the CSCI and Health Care Commission Improvement Board
- We work with government



Organising Forums And Conferences

- We organise forums to talk about important things like government white papers, transport, bullying, street law:
 - We get everything ready
 - We tell everyone where it is, who is coming and from where
 - We do publicity posters, we produce the fire register, we book taxis
 - We make sure it all works well and that everyone enjoys it



Training People

- At Speakup we train people:
For example ...
 - How to set up good advocacy groups;
 - How to be effective people;
 - How to live on your own;
 - How government works;
- Other things ...
 - What is meant by capacity;
 - Healthy living;
 - Leadership;
 - Working as a team;
 - Person Centred Planning



Working With Professionals

- We plan services and make them better
- We work with the head of the Learning Disability Services
- We work with support workers
- We work with the Valuing People Support Team
- We work with the professors and students from the College of Law in Leeds
- We work with people from the Partnership Boards



Working With RAP

We work together with Rotherham Advocacy Partnerships to provide really good advocacy for people in Rotherham.

RAP provide:

- A one to one partnership with people to help them with any big problems
- Help through SureStart for parents with learning difficulties
- An advocacy drop in service around Rotherham

RAP do lots of other things which Ed would like to tell you about now ...



Come And See!



**We Do Lots More Than This – Come Down And See Us
Does Anyone Have Any Questions?**