

To whom it may concern:

In November 2008 Speakup Self Advocacy were awarded the DCSF tender to produce an easy read version of our 2008 Secretary of State Report on Progress towards Disability Equality. This was a very complex document comprising over 300 pages.

The service provided by Sally Ferguson and the team was excellent. The document was produced in accordance with the requirements set out within the specification to a particularly high standard and ahead of deadline. An excellent professional working relationship was established and I am delighted to report that Speakup were again successful in their bid to produce another easyread document for us this year.

I am particularly impressed by the way people with learning disabilities are actively involved in the development of the documents and feel that this involvement contributed significantly to the final version. I would have no hesitation in recommending Sally and her team to undertake future work.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss.

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Rotherham Learning Disability Service
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Ref:
LDS/DIC/JFr
L082-v2

Contact:
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To: **Learning Disability Partnership Boards**
“Valuing People” Lead Officers
Commissioners

9th March 2006

Dear Colleagues

SpeakUp Self-Advocacy, Rotherham

I am writing this letter to endorse the above organisation.

I have worked closely with SpeakUp for the last 12 years and watched them grow into a first rate provider of self-advocacy and “friendly” information services. They have produced over 40 videos and DVDs, making information easily accessible for people with a learning disability as well as promoting self-advocacy locally, regionally and nationally.

Recently, Rotherham Borough Council were awarded Beacon Status for “Valuing People” and SpeakUp contributed in no small measure to both the services provided by the Council as well as in the presentations to the IDeA.

I have no hesitation in recommending them to you as an excellent provider and leader within their field.

Yours sincerely

D I Chester
Director of Learning Disability Services



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Department
Of Sociological
Studies.

Dr Kathy Boxall

The University of Sheffield
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12th June 2010

To whom it may concern:

Speakup Self Advocacy, Rotherham

I was introduced to Speakup Self Advocacy in 2005 by Margaret Little, an inspector with the Commission for Social Care Inspection who recommended members of the organisation as visiting speakers for our social work courses. Since then, people from Speakup have contributed on a regular basis to our BA and MA Social Work programmes, providing excellent training for our students. Feedback on these sessions has always been very good; for example:

So, so interesting and given in such a passionate way from the visitors.

Visiting speakers were fantastic: great to get a realistic idea of service users' perspectives.

I really valued the guest speakers' contribution, you really made me 'think' and reflect on my practice and personal values. Thank you for your time.

The University of Sheffield library also purchased a full set of DVDs produced by Speakup which provide an excellent resource for students undertaking placements in with people with learning disabilities. The DVDs have also proved very useful for classroom teaching and discussions.

I have always found Speakup to be a most professional organisation; they are also very approachable. When I had to write a chapter for a social work text book recently, I got in touch with Speakup to discuss the possibility of writing something together and although none of us had done anything quite like this before, everyone was very enthusiastic and positive about the project and keen to be involved. As with everything else the organisation do, every effort was made to ensure that people with learning disabilities' perspectives and voices were foregrounded in discussions about the book chapter.

If you are looking for an organisation whose work is firmly underpinned by the perspectives and concerns of people with learning disabilities, but which is also able to respond to the particular needs of your own organisation, I cannot recommend Speakup too highly. I hope you will get in touch with Speakup so that you too can benefit from the excellent service they provide.

Kathy Boxall

Programme Manager, MA in Social Work, University of Sheffield

Rotherham Learning Disability Service
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Ref:
LDS/SPH/JB

Contact: Jackie Bickerstaffe
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To: Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

I am providing a reference on behalf of Speak up in support of their bid for funding to your Authority.

Rotherham Council and in particular the Integrated Learning Disability Service have supported Speak up via a service level agreement for several years. As an organisation they support service users in self advocacy, host regional forums, they provide feedback at the Partnership Board meetings on all people's issues and support the Co-Chair of the Partnership Board and other service users who are part of the Partnership Boards task groups, in areas ranging from health to Being Safe. They undertake all the consultation with service users on behalf of the Learning Disability service and are currently working in partnership with service staff to produce a toolkit to assist in person centred planning for people with complex needs.

Below are some of the areas that they have contributed to various agendas across the council and the Learning Disability Service that are applicable to your criteria.

Easy read:

Over the past year they have provided easy read information for Rotherham Learning Disability Service and Rotherham Council on the following topics:

Comment or complain – An easy read guide to making a comment or complaint to the council.

Safeguarding – An easy read guide for Adults on Safeguarding in Rotherham.

How can I get help – Easy read posters on where adults needing health and social care services can get help and support.

Sexuality Policy – an easy read guide to the Rotherham Sexuality Police.

Personalisation – Speakup undertook a consultation on what staff competencies would be required to deliver the personalisation agenda and created an easy read report on this for the Adults Services Directorate Management Team.

Day Centre Consultation – They are currently working with our Adults services to create easy read consultations to find out what people think about the day services they receive.



Hate Crime:

Speakup was one of the first organisations in the country to campaign about Bullying and Hate Crime. They created two DVD's about Bullying and held National, Regional and Local conferences on Hate Crime. Two members of Speakup worked with the Crown Prosecution Service to create a policy on prosecuting crimes where people with learning disabilities or mental health problems are victims or witnesses.

They supported the National Forum in their campaign to tackle Hate Crime.

Speakup runs as a Hate Crime Reporting Centre for Rotherham and would significantly contribute to tackling Hate Crime in Oldham.

Employment:

Speakup has created significant employment opportunities and work placements/tasters for people with a learning disability over the years.

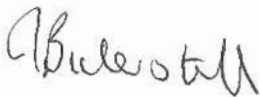
Over the past 3 years the organisation has received funding from the Department of Health to develop two projects:

1. **Employ your Experts** – A mini toolkit and DVD to help advocacy groups employ people with learning disabilities.
2. **Works 4 Me** – A training and placement initiative to help people with learning disabilities think about work and the skills they will need. This includes looking for jobs, applying and writing CVs, going for interviews and getting a job.

Members of Speakup are also members of the Council's Scrutiny Panel and are confident in challenging, where appropriate if publications or open minutes are not produced in accessible formats.

I have no hesitation in recommending them to your authority and wish them every success with their application.

Yours sincerely



Jackie Bickerstaffe
Head of Service

Director of Strategic Planning and Development: Kath Atkinson

Ask for Alice Kilner
Direct Dial: 01709 302118
Fax:
Email: alice.kilner@rotherham.nhs.uk

Date: 1 July 2009

Anne Ferguson
Principal Officer
Speakup Self Advocacy Ltd
Durlston House
5 Moorgate Road
ROTHERHAM
S60 2EN

Dear Anne

**Re The Victims Fund
Project Names – 'I'm Going to Court' and 'Greater Voice'**

I am writing to offer the support of NHS Rotherham (the Primary Care Trust) to Speakup regarding your application to the Victims Fund.

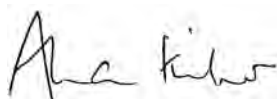
The NHS Rotherham – through the joint learning disability service – has worked with Speakup for a number of years. You are a highly valued and widely recognized organisation that has a track record of delivering high quality outcomes for people with a learning disability at a local, regional and national level.

We believe that Speakup's proposed Victims Fund projects, which will major on the issues of Hate Crime and Restorative Justice, will deliver highly valued resources in the form of 2 broadcast standard DVD's that would provide the focus that is needed to develop a wider range of support to disabled people, by people that use services and their carers.

I am aware that Speakup is part of the local Rotherham Community Safety Partnership and sits on the Community Tensions Group in Rotherham. I am also aware of your recent work, which includes giving people a good understanding of the 'No Secrets Report' 'using their excellent DVD titled 'Abuse is Bad' and producing the 'Safeguarding Adults in Rotherham – How to understand abuse and where to report it' in easy read.

We wish you all the very best success with your bid, and look forward to working with Speakup on developing these projects should the bid be successful.

Yours sincerely,



Alice Kilner
Strategic Planning and Joint Commissioning Manager

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE

FROM: PC1243 Nick Knowles	REF:
	DCU/DEPT: Vulnerable Persons Unit, Rotherham
TO: PCC Shaun Wright	EXT: 722702
PCC's Office	DATE: 11th March 2014

SUBJECT: Supporting Letter

Sir, I am writing to you in relation to Speakup.

The Vulnerable Persons Unit is a joint agency unit with RMBC staff, Carol Adamson, and South Yorkshire Police working with key partners in the community to protect and support vulnerable people who are victims of hate, ASB or on the verge of criminalisation or radicalisation.

Speakup is a key link into people with learning disabilities and autism in Rotherham and have demonstrated commitment to joint partnership working; we have worked with them on delivering training to RMBC, community and police staff through the Safer Rotherham Partnership to increase the capacity of council and community sector workers in supporting service users who are victims of hate crimes. Additionally they have been commissioned to design, and have delivered, easy read hate crime awareness leaflets and assisted in our recent radio campaign raising awareness of hate incidents.

With the support of Speakup we are working to raise awareness of disability, and specifically learning disability, related incidents and that no one should suffer in silence. In Rotherham during the calendar year of 2013 we have seen a significant increase in disability reported incidents, the purpose of the campaign was to highlight the unreported incidents and increase the reporting of incidents to ascertain the true picture of bullying & discrimination. With the support of Speakup, through the funding application, we hope to improve understanding of the criminal justice system, break down the barriers to being a witness or reporting an incident, deal with intolerance through education and, where necessary, the criminal justice process.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

19th September 2012.

To whom it may concern

In my capacity of DH Valuing people lead for Yorkshire and Humber 2006 -2011 Speakup worked on a number of DH projects including a consultation on the publication of No secrets and a large piece of work evaluating the impact of Health Checks for people with a learning disability and the benefits of Advocacy for people with a learning disability.

Each piece of work they carried out to a very high standard and at all times made sure that people and families views and voices were heard. The easy read material they produced was of an excellent standard at the same time as making sure the message was clear and understood by everyone. I fully support Speakups bid to the Vountary Sector Investment Programme, as I feel Bridges for Better Health will ensure that disadvantaged and excluded communities are centrally involved within CCGs and commissioning processes.

In my current role as the Programme manager NHS North SHA, Speakup continue to play an active role in the locality and are currently working in partnership with Rotherham PCT, National Autistic Society and the SHA to make sure GP and clinical staff are aware of the issues facing people with Autism

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Regards

Jenny Anderton.

Learning Disability Programme Manager

Directorate of Care, Quality & Productivity

NHS Yorkshire and the Humber

Blenheim House West One Duncombe Street

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01132952806

07768744998

Subject: FW: URGENT letter of support

Date: Thursday, 13 March 2014 15:40

From: Kyte, Judith <Judith.Kyte@rdash.nhs.uk>

To: Geoff <geoff@speakup.org.uk>

‘Gearing up for Personal Health Budgets’

In my capacity of Strategic Health Facilitator within Rotherham Learning Disability Services I have engaged Speakup to work on a number of projects which have included developing and delivering training, supporting the health sub group to achieve its aims and developing best practice models of inclusion across the borough and which are replicated widely.

Each piece of work they continue to carry out to a very high standard, on budget and to target, and at all times made sure that people and families views and voices are heard. The easy read material they produce is of an excellent standard at the same time as making sure that messages are clearly understood by all.

The most recent training that they developed and delivered, in co-production with people with Autism and funded by NHS Rotherham, was Autism training delivered to healthcare professionals from GP Practices and the Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust; providing excellent results, positive feedback and evaluation. This training programme was developed and delivered over a 12 month timeframe.

I fully support and endorse Speakup’s bid as I feel the project will support and empower disadvantaged people across the England, ensuring that they fully understand how to access Personal Health Budgets and increase their take-up and success in the future.

I know Speakup ensure disadvantaged peoples’ voices are heard through various forums such as their facilitation of the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Forum for People with Learning Disabilities and representation on the National Forum for People with Learning Disabilities.

Speakup continue to play an active role in the locality, working closely with the Rotherham Learning Disability Service, and are currently working in partnership with Rotherham CCG, NHS England, National Autistic Society and the SHA to make sure frontline staff are aware of the health issues people with learning disabilities and/or autism face within today's society.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Regards

Judy Kyte

Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust

Website: <http://www.rdash.nhs.uk>

Extranet: <http://nww.rdash.nhs.uk> (NHS Only)

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Date 11th March 2014

To whom it may concern

I am writing to provide a reference for Speakup in relation to their Supported Employment of people with Learning Disabilities proposal. This project is seeking to support the core costs of safeguarding the employment of 9 people with learning disabilities and support staff who deliver the 21 structured work placements

Over the past 8 years I have worked on numerous projects with Speakup All of which have been delivered to a high standard, on time and to budget. Employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities are still incredibly rare. Projects and organisations like Speakup should be supported as they promote the social inclusion of marginalised groups within society. Individuals with learning disabilities lives within the organisation have been transformed through the opportunity to take part in stable employment, with some individuals now owning their own home and living the life they choose, hence my support for this excellent project.

Speakup have an excellent reputation for their best practice approaches to inclusion and because of this I have no hesitation in recommending they be funded above other projects by Thomas Baily. **Speakup are a national and regional organisation. They are extremely credible as leaders in service user involvement, person led and person centred services**

I am happy to recommend the services of Speakup. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Dr Jill Aylott

Sheffield Hallam University



Department of Sociological Studies

Shazia Nazir
BBC Children in Need
Small grants application

Ref: Supporting small grants application "*Looking after Lissy*" SpeakUp Self-Advocacy Ltd

Date 23/8/12

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Dear Ms Nazir

I am writing to support the application made by Speakup Self Advocacy Ltd to Children in need for funding for the project *Looking after Lissy*. I am the programme leader for the Masters in Social Work programme at the University of Sheffield and over a number of years I have gained first-hand knowledge of the excellent work Speakup do in Rotherham and also nationally in promoting the interests of people with learning disabilities. Students on the social work programmes at both universities in Sheffield have benefited enormously from Speakup's involvement and support of their learning through placements within the agency and also through the contribution advocates make to teaching at the University. Speakup have produced numerous training materials of a high standard that our students draw upon through the programme. I use the DVD on the use of Mental Capacity Act that was produced by Speakup in teaching as this provides students with clear information and also allows them to engage with service-user perspectives on their rights and their experiences of and views about what is helpful in supported decision-making. Speakup have developed a range of training material and deliver training to professional groups (GP's, social workers, nurses etc) locally that I know has been very helpful in supporting ongoing professional development. On this basis I would anticipate a similar standard would be applied to the development of *Looking after Lissy*– and hope that you can provide the funding needed for this. The proposed resources that would be produced by the project are most certainly needed by parents and by professionals, and I have no doubt that they would be used locally. I would also expect Speakup to disseminate the knowledge gained through the work nationally through the networks that Speakup are embedded in as they have done so previously and therefore would envisage wider use of the valuable resource produced.

If you would like to discuss this further I am very happy to speak to you (I am working from home today 01422 886717 and will be in my office on Tuesday Thursday and Friday next week 0114 222 6450 – then I will e away for two weeks)

Yours sincerely

Nora McClelland