



The Advocacy Grant Scheme Wales

A Report to the Welsh Assembly Government by the British
Institute of Learning Disabilities

April 2009 to March 2010

Report compiled by Keith Smith



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1. Aim and Purpose of the Grant Scheme

The purpose of the advocacy grant scheme is to seek to ensure that adults with a learning disability across Wales have reasonable access to an appropriate range of advocacy services. The beneficiaries of the grant funding are voluntary sector groups or other not-for-profit organisations.

The long term aim of the grant scheme is to fill geographical gaps in advocacy provision and to reduce dependency on Welsh Assembly Government for funding by seeking to ensure that local authorities and NHS organisations play their full and proper role in the provision of local services.

2. Meaning of Advocacy

In the context of this report, advocacy is a process which enables others to gain power, authority and influence and in general terms means *“to speak up for someone or to support them to speak up for themselves”*. It refers specifically to people with a learning disability. In general there are two ways that this happens:

- One to one Advocacy: Having an advocate to speak up on one’s behalf (this can be referred to as citizen or volunteer advocacy, crisis advocacy, issues based advocacy or professional advocacy).
- Self Advocacy: Developing the confidence and skills to speak up for oneself, either as a member of a group or as an individual. The majority of groups adopt the “People First” model where those with developed communication skills meet regularly to discuss issues that are important to them.

Advocacy support for those who access it offers a way to enable each person to have a voice of their own to ensure that they are not excluded because they do not express their views in ways that others understand. Effective advocacy should lead to empowerment and increased strength of individuals, which involves developing confidence in their own capacities and skills.

3. Background information

In February 2008 there was agreement from the Welsh Assembly Government that there would be a three year successor grant scheme to that which had been in existence since 2003. This successor scheme would be administered in the following way:

A six month roll over grant for 2008-09 (April to September). Existing grant recipients would continue to be funded providing that the monitoring process had identified they were performing satisfactorily

A new grant scheme to start on 1st October 2008 and continue until March 2011.

4. Process for roll over grants

Although previous monitoring had raised some concerns about a number of groups, none were believed to be underperforming to the level that their grant should be withdrawn. All but one group funded from April 2007 to March 2008 continued to receive the roll over grant. The North Wales Race Equality Network had been awarded a grant for a one-off piece of research culminating in the production of a training materials resource. This work had been completed and therefore the roll over grant was not required.

A total of £285,696 was awarded for the first six months. The amount given to each group was the equivalent of 50% of the grant they had received in the final year of the previous grant round - that is 2007/2008. There was no inflationary uplift added.

5. Administration of Grant Scheme to end of September 2008

BILD's contract to administer the Grant Scheme was initially extended for a further six months until the end of September 2008. Part of this work involved establishing and running a successor grants round to award new grants for October 2008 – March 2011.

All roll over grants were distributed in 2 quarterly payments – one in April and one in July. During the period of the roll over grants, groups were monitored as in previous years and the guide "Good practice in advocacy and advocacy standards", produced as part of the previous grant scheme, was promoted. There was additional emphasis placed on offering support on making funding applications in preparation for the new grant round.

6. New Grant Round October 2008 – March 2011

During the first 6 month period, the Welsh Assembly Government undertook a new tendering and procurement process for the commissioning of the Advocacy Grant Programme from October 2008 – March 2011.

BILD were successful in being awarded the tender to continue to administer the forthcoming new grant scheme from October 2008 onwards. Funds available to be distributed were as follows:

- Year one: £314,304
(£600,000 less £285,696 already paid out in the roll over grants)
- Year two: £620,000
- Year three: £640,000

The new programme runs from October 2008 until March 2011. In the initial grant round, organisations could apply for a grant for the whole period or for part of it.

Each advocacy organisation could only apply for one grant up to a total of £30k per year.

7. Criteria for new Grant Round

For this application round there were two additional criteria to the previously applied criteria of advocacy for young people and adults with a learning disability in Wales.

The additional criteria were as follows:

- Advocacy for those on the Autistic Spectrum, including those with Asperger Syndrome who may or may not have an associated learning disability
- Funding for Advocacy for those in NHS continuing care arrangements would be limited to a maximum of 18 months.

To be eligible for a grant, groups needed to meet all of the following criteria:

- They must be an independent organisation that does not provide any kind of community care services for people with a learning disability or people on the autistic spectrum, or be part of a larger organisation that provides community care services.
- They must provide advocacy for people with a learning disability or people on the autistic spectrum (including Asperger Syndrome), or plan to provide advocacy. This may be offering one-to-one advocacy support or facilitating self-advocacy groups
- They must be able to show that they meet the British Institute of Learning Disabilities (BILD) advocacy standards.
- They must be able to provide evidence that they have matched funding from other sources to cover the full costs of their project. Except for NHS continuing care advocacy, the Welsh Assembly Government's maximum grant rates were 90% of the costs in the first year, 80% in the second and 70% in the third year and the amount of grant contribution would also be subject to a maximum of £30,000 per project in any one year. The grant rate for NHS continuing care advocacy would be 80% for the whole 18 month period subject to a maximum grant amount of £36,000 over the 18 month period. For 2008/2009 groups could only apply for a maximum of £15,000 (half cost for a full year)

8. Funding Decisions

There have been 3 discrete funding processes linked to the current grant programme.

The programme was initially advertised in June 2008 with completed applications due by the closing date of 11th August 2008. 33 applications were received from 31 different groups.

Decisions were made by an independent funding panel who had the skills and knowledge in all areas identified in the funding criteria. Each panel member spent

time assessing and scoring the applications before they met together to discuss their findings and make recommendations to the Welsh Assembly Government.

This led to:

- 8 groups being offered a grant
- 12 groups offered conditional grants
- 13 groups not offered any grant

As not all of the grant money was allocated in this initial round, a further grant round was opened in November 2008 to allocate remaining funds.

Small grants of up to £5,000 were available for:

1. Training of staff, volunteers (including management committee members) or service users.
2. Independent evaluations of organisations to deliver improvement action plans.
3. Equipment that would be of clear benefit to beneficiaries.

19 applications were received and decision making by BILD staff led to 10 being awarded a total of £38,024. These grants were paid out in March 2009 to ensure all year one funds were allocated.

A second grant round was opened for one year revenue costs in the second or third year of the programme. This round was focussed on applications from organisations that provide advocacy for people with a learning disability from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities, people who have complex needs or people on the autistic spectrum.

2 further groups were funded out of eight that applied, making 23 groups being funded in total (**see Appendix 1**).

This means that £101,196 remains unallocated for 2010/11 and decisions concerning this will be the subject of discussions between BILD and the Welsh Assembly Government. This figure includes the £30,000 grant that is no longer required following the demise of Advocacy Action Wales.

9. Management of the Scheme from October 2008 – March 2011

BILD has the responsibility of managing the current Advocacy Grant Scheme until March 2011. This has provided continuity since the organisation managed the previous schemes since their inception in 2003.

The main tasks have included:

- Liaison with and reporting to the Welsh Assembly Government.
- Organising and delivering the grant programme application and award process.
- Ensuring the payment of the grants to the organisations on a quarterly basis in line with the monitoring process.

- Working with the organisations receiving grants to ensure that they are working towards the achievement of their targets and outcomes during the grant period.

During this 12 month period, there has been a significant change in personnel as Janet Badger retired at the end of June 2009. Janet had been directly involved in all of the grant programmes and had managed the application rounds and the monitoring processes.



Since July 2009, Keith Smith, BILD's Chief Executive has taken responsibility for the overall management of the grant programme and also actively visits and monitors a number of the organisations.



He is supported by Anna Deverill-Smith, who has many years experience of working with people with a learning disability and previously held a post as manager of an advocacy organisation in Wales. She lives in Wales and has considerable experience of monitoring the groups in the grant programme



and Liz Brooks who is a BILD Development Manager and has managed the Advocacy Grant Programme in England. Liz is seconded to the Department of Health part-time and is the National Advocacy Lead in England.

10. Advisory Group

The aim of the advisory group is to provide advice and support to enable the grant scheme to achieve its purpose and to meet the aims, objectives and requirements of the Welsh Assembly Government. The terms of reference can be seen as **Appendix 3**.

The membership is:-

Liz Brooks – Development Manager, BILD
Anna Deverill-Smith – Monitoring Officer/BILD Consultant
Louise Hughes – Independent Advisor
Michael Ratcliffe – Taking Part, Shropshire
Diane Morgan – Taking Part, Shropshire
Keith Smith – Chief Executive, BILD

The membership consists of BILD staff involved in delivering and monitoring the Welsh Assembly Grant Programme and individuals with a wide experience of advocacy and the Welsh Social and Health Care context.

During this 12 month period, the group has met on 13/05/09 and 13/11/09. It has focused upon:

- updates on the delivery of the programme and the monitoring of the group's achievements of their targets and outcomes.
- the ways in which groups were addressing the issues raised in BILD/Welsh Assembly Government's "Good Practice in Advocacy and Advocacy Standards".
- planning and evaluating the impact of the action planning workshops held in Swansea and Welshpool at the end of June 2009.
- overseeing the transfer of responsibilities from Janet Badger to the BILD team when Janet retired at the end of June 2009.

The advisory group meetings in 2010 have been planned for April 15th and November 18th.

11. Monitoring Activity

Each funded group/organisation has signed a contract that contains specific targets/outcomes that have been agreed to warrant allocation of the grant. It is the delivery of these outcomes that is the focus of BILD's monitoring activities and the subsequent reports to the Welsh Assembly Government.

Each organisation has to complete and submit a monitoring form that provides an opportunity to outline progress in achieving the outcomes, successes and challenges, good practice and a financial summary/accounts. The monitoring forms

cover 6 monthly periods and have to be completed and submitted in June and December. The next quarter payment will not be transferred to the organisation until the requisite monitoring form and information is received.

Alongside the forms, 2 monitoring visits to each organisation are completed each year. Through the monitoring forms and visits, groups have become much more aware of their need to provide the evidence that grant money is being used effectively and that the targets identified in their contracts are being met.

12. Monitoring Statistics

As part of the monitoring processes, groups complete a form that provides equalities statistics. Up to the end of December, 2009, the current grant scheme had worked directly with 1090 individuals. Of these, 951 were identified as being white British, which once more reflects the poor representation of different ethnic groups as far as advocacy is concerned.

191 individuals were identified as being on the autistic spectrum which reinforces that most advocacy organisations are working with individuals on the spectrum.

198 individuals who have profound and complex learning disabilities have received decent support from the grant funding.

See Appendix 2 Equalities Statistics

13. Making a Difference – Case studies from the monitoring forms

1. Someone in a members' meeting was able to talk about feeling patronised when he made a complaint to the police about his neighbours.
2. In the last members' meeting when we were focussing on choice, one member described his fraught history and said that he wanted to live on his own with support and had not felt that anyone had listened to his request so far. His worker was present and both said that they would take this to the current housing manager.
3. People First has helped me a lot. They have helped me move out of my Dad's house after my mum died two years ago when me and my dad did not get on. I now live in my own flat.
4. "I have made friends. I can speak up for people who cannot speak up for themselves and make sure people in the community get what they want".
5. One young person with autism and severe challenging behaviour has been represented in meetings with a residential care provider ensuring the young person's preferences are acknowledged and that she has opportunities to express her autonomy.
6. One young person with autism has been supported and represented in adult protection meetings to ensure that his wishes in relation to contact with his family are understood and respected.
7. One young man with autism and mental health issues has been supported by his advocate through a particularly traumatic time with moves into foster care and hospitals.
8. One young woman with complex needs has been supported in expressing her wishes regarding her school placement and her preferences in school through the use of widget symbols.
9. The advocate has recently supported her partner to join the local gym – they plan to lose some weight together. She is aware that her partner lacks confidence but he is gradually getting to know other gym users and feels more at ease.
10. One person loves farm life and he spends time with his advocate on her family farm most weeks. He very much enjoys his visits and is treated as "one of the family". On his way home, he and his advocate usually call in at the local pub, giving him the opportunity to get to know the regulars. The people in the pub are very friendly and he is more confident in their company.
11. As a result of issues of access to her children, one woman has to visit her solicitor. She finds this stressful and is not always able to understand all that is going on. Her new advocate has accompanied her on these visits. She is

now a lot more relaxed and far less anxious about such meetings because she knows that she has someone there to support and help her.

12. Two individuals are continuing to explore a move to independent living from residential care and now have the opportunity to express their wishes through the process.
13. One person with complex needs supported to achieve better social opportunities through improved staffing levels.
14. A young man with a moderate learning disability given urgent support to prepare for and attend tribunal hearing to appeal against withdrawal of incapacity benefit. The advocate found out information, explained procedures and helped to prepare the case and present it to tribunal. The outcome was the restoration of benefit for the young man.
15. Young woman with moderate learning disabilities given urgent support in childcare proceedings for her child who is severely disabled. The advocate supported her with information and accompanied her to attend solicitors and at child protection conferences. The young woman has been supported to put her point of view at the meeting and has been given information to assist her in making choices.
16. Young man with learning disabilities received urgent support to deal with incidents of bullying, intimidation and assault that he was experiencing when walking home from college. The advocate gave him information about his rights and supported him to bring incidents to the attention of college authorities and the police. The incidents have now ceased and the young man has expressed confidence that he could deal with similar incidents if they occur. He has now joined the self advocacy group in his local area.
17. Young woman with autism given advocacy support over a move back to her home county. Information and support provided about tenancy rights and support needs and ongoing support with issues with new co-tenant.

14. Monitoring report on individual groups funded

ABCD Cymru - Cardiff

The project provides a specialist advocacy service for BME learning disabled young people in South Wales. Following a rocky start, the new Advocacy worker has now got things up and running. The project has identified and contacted 50 young people, and the process of networking with groups held on ABCD's data base is well underway. They are currently establishing a young people's group, and the worker holds drop-ins and has one to one sessions. They offer awareness training and have provided this to a few organisations in Cardiff. Still a little ground to make up, but now making steady progress to achieving their initial targets.

Advocacy Action Wales – covering Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Torfaen and Monmouthshire

This group was funded to continue their work providing one to one advocacy support for people with high support needs. This was a project that was funded in the previous funding round and its positive work and need for continuity was recognised. However, a reduction in match funding meant that the project has been reduced from a 37 hours post to an 18.5 hours post. In addition, there was difficulty recruiting to this post for the period July to December 2009. This meant that the hours from December 2009 to March 2010 were increased to maximise the use of the funding.

During the 12 month period, thirteen individuals have been supported to participate in choices and decision making that affected their lives. This reflects the amount of time spent by the advocate "getting to know" the person, building trust and developing effective communication approaches to establish their needs, wants and wishes. These approaches were regularly reviewed and monitored to ensure the ongoing promotion of rights and choices.

The issues for which advocacy support has been provided includes transition to new placements and ensuring that individuals are provided with all of the necessary person centred support required especially in relation to health needs; transition from children's to adult services; exploring housing and support options; challenging poor practice in providing support; challenging risk assessments that reduce life opportunities. During the 12 month period, there has been an internal management restructure within the organisation to respond to funding pressures. Unfortunately, the loss of contracts with local authorities has meant that the Board of Trustees have had to decide to formally close the organisation by the end of May 2010.

The grant funding for the work of the high support needs advocate has been fully utilised by the end of March 2010. Although the uncertainties caused by the financial difficulties experienced over this 12 month period by Advocacy Action Wales and the challenges in recruiting have had a real impact, there can be no doubt that this project provided high quality support to people with learning disabilities and high support needs. It is apparent that the loss of this project will result in an absence of advocacy support and individuals are likely to be disempowered in terms of their choices and decision making.

Advocacy Matters Wales - Cardiff

The project provides one to one advocacy support for people with Asperger Syndrome and has extended AMW's existing Asperger project. The project is now very well established and is currently supporting 11 individuals, with 12 people on referral. The initial target of supporting 26 people per year was probably too ambitious for one advocate to deal with due to the nature and complexity of issues that individuals with Aspergers encounter. The project is now a point of contact for clients and families living with ASD. In addition to the direct advocacy work, the advocate also signposts individuals to appropriate organisations and information, which they have identified and recorded on their data base. The group is raising awareness of the issues faced by people with Aspergers Syndrome via their direct advocacy work, as each individual has links with a wide and varied range of service providers. These organisations then become a valuable resource when dealing with new clients and for signposting.

A Voice for You (formerly Montgomeryshire CA)

This continues to be a well-managed Citizen Advocacy organisation with an excellent record for recruiting and retaining volunteers. They are working with over 60 partnerships and are supporting a number of individuals on the autistic spectrum or who have profound and complex learning disabilities.

Formerly known as Montgomeryshire Citizen Advocacy, their rebranding as "A Voice for You" has enabled a new impetus both in awareness raising of the organisation and in the recruitment of new volunteers. They continue to focus on community involvement with volunteer advocates working on a one to one basis with their advocacy partner.

The organisation has worked constructively with local commissioners and service providers to ensure that linked advocates are involved in care plan reviews. This work is now beginning to provide results with a number of advocates attending reviews for the first time.

Following the departure of one of the co-ordinators in August, a replacement was recruited successfully. The governance and management of the organisation remains strong and effective and a new Strategic Plan and Risk Management plan has been completed during this 12 month period. In addition, learning opportunities have been accessed by Trustees, staff and advocates including induction, assertiveness, and risk management.

BCA Independent Advocacy, Brecon

This is a well established advocacy organisation and the current grant was given to provide one to one advocacy for people in Powys. The project continues to deliver high support advocacy using five sessional advocates focussing on adults with profound and multiple disabilities and to those who have significant barriers to communication.

A new development of this work is that the self advocacy project is enabling some individuals with severe communication challenges to take part in self advocacy by working with them to develop digital media profiles and providing signing and other

support for communication at meetings. It is anticipated that this will empower the individuals to have even greater participation, choice and control over their lives.

Having a number of advocates enables people with the right skills and knowledge to be assigned to support individuals depending on the issues involved. Over this 12 month period, particular issues included benefit entitlement, rights regarding family and private life, debt, housing and tenancy support. The organisation is receiving referrals from a wider range of organisations and there has been a significant increase in the number of referrals received from solicitors to support people with learning disabilities in the criminal justice system. In addition, increasing advocacy support is being provided for parents with learning disabilities in relation to childcare proceedings.

This project is well managed and the management committee act proactively in relation to strategic planning and monitoring. They have developed a new Easy Read Complaints leaflet for people using their services and this has been developed as part of an ongoing review of the organisation's policy and procedures by the Directors.

Bridgend People First

This was the only group awarded funding under the Continuing Health Care section of the grant programme. The project provided advocacy support for adults with a learning disability living in a group home in Bridgend. The advocate describes the environment in the following terms "an oppressive environment (shared areas, lack of privacy), problems with communication, and difficult group dynamics." However, despite this, the advocate has managed to get to know people quite well. The Advocate visits at least once a week and spends time with people in their home, or occasionally at an outside activity. The project has had some notable successes which include the allocation of care managers for all five individuals, and input into the Unified Assessments on behalf of each individual. The establishment of a Moving on Group (Care Managers, Continuing Health Care staff, Health Trust staff) with the Advocate as a key member represents the interests of the Continuing Health Care clients. The Advocate produced a report which questions the lack of care manager and general practitioner input to Continuing Health Care and the lack of 'move on' which has been passed to the LDIAG. The funding for this work came to an end in March 2010; the advocate has been negotiating with Lloyds TSB to secure funding for another two years to continue this project. Bridgend PF are hopeful that it will be long enough to see the completion of the work the advocate started as it is essential to the wellbeing of all the individuals in the home.

Caerphilly People First

The group provides a range of self advocacy groups and activities for people with a learning disability throughout Caerphilly. The group has been involved in running 2 courses on advocacy for respite care staff that 28 council staff attended. The group felt that as a result of the training people with learning disabilities in Caerphilly would receive better care. They have been involved in the drafting of Caerphilly County Borough Council's advocacy strategy. The group has an ongoing arrangement to host trainee community police officer on a week's placement from Gwent Police. The group feels that once the officers are qualified, they will be less hesitant and fearful when dealing with people with learning disabilities. The group run weekly advocacy

training sessions with students from the local Resource Centre. Each session is attended by 10 students and the course is delivered by members of Caerphilly People First. As previously indicated, this is a well established group, and as such has been able to show significant achievements in line with their project targets.

Cardiff People First – Community Voices and Newport People First

Community Voices is a unique advocacy project for people with a learning disability from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities. The group runs a women-only group and a mixed gender group for people from different communities to meet and take part in a range of activities. The group strives for equality, understanding, respect and acceptance.

The group's aims are to help their members have their voice heard; to tell service providers how to make things better; to meet people with the same issues; to take part in cultural activities of their choice and visit other groups. In addition, they help members learn about 'your rights', how to complain and to be supported to be taken seriously. The group has recently taken members on a residential experience that has taken them away from the city environment they are used to and given the members an opportunity to experience very different situations and opportunities. Their Hidden Lives DVD and website continues to promote the lives of its members and informs their audiences of the issues faced by individuals from BME communities who have a learning disability. Cardiff People First has taken on the management of the BME project run in conjunction with Newport People First as both groups work so closely together. Both groups run area based activities and join together for specific ventures and are due to hold a joint cultural day in May.

Carmarthenshire People First

The purpose of this grant was to provide a range of advocacy opportunities for adults with a learning disability in Carmarthenshire. This is being achieved in supporting the People First Committee; ongoing work with 3 service user groups; in day centres; citizen advocacy; and a wide range of participation in reviewing and planning services, delivery of training and making documents easy read.

Highlights of the past 12 months have included the work in day centres which are changing to encourage training and work opportunities with the introduction of the COASTAL project. The organisation is providing support and a forum where people can have their say about the changes.

In response to a publicised incident of abuse, the organisation has developed and delivered training on "recognising abuse and what to do about it" for people with learning disabilities and staff in joint sessions in 6 day service settings.

The members are heavily involved in the local authority's recruitment processes for posts in learning disability services. Ongoing training has been provided for police probationers, and managers of Social Services and the Health Trust.

The organisation has moved offices and has created employment opportunities for members as office workers and cleaners.

In addition, they are working with people with autism to complete their personal profiles and have supported members to participate in the creation of a health information card system for all people with a learning disability in Carmarthenshire. Plans for the future include peer advocacy support to people who are admitted to general hospitals.

Central to the work is the development of skills and confidence by supporting people to speak in public, delivering training sessions, being part of strategy groups, creating publicity leaflets, organising events, developing office skills and challenging decisions.

Ceredigion People First

This project was funded to facilitate self advocacy groups across Ceredigion. The workshops on self expression and making choices in each of the 3 day centres have continued. Running mixed ability workshops has been challenging for the trainers who have used creative arts and drama to provide inclusive sessions. The workshop at Canolfan Podam benefitted from a worker who was a speech and language therapist who supported participants to communicate using signs, symbols and Welsh. The work in the day centres has enabled positive discussions to take place with day centre managers about how to tackle the barriers to independence caused by the lack of availability of transport enabling people to attend members' meetings and promotion of person centred planning. In addition, a one day workshop on voting and politics was run by the Electoral Commission.

The members' meetings continue to support the development of individuals' self confidence, ability to make choices and decisions, and raise issues to discuss and challenge. Members have practised voting to determine the issues to focus on with transport being the most voted for area followed by making choices, and friendships/relationships. This led to consultation on the national transport plan at two day centres.

Exploring the issues relating to friendships/relationships was central to the partnership conference on "Relationships" held in Ceredigion on 10th June 2009 and the subsequent Citizen's Jury event with All Wales People First. The reporting of these events include recommendations for taking this work forward.

Members have actively campaigned in response to "neighbours" objections to a group home and also in support of service providers affected by loss of contracts.

Members have developed a wide range of training workshops and have planned and delivered at a wide range of events over this 12 month period. This has included "Keeping safe at home and on the streets", "Money and your rights", "Bullying", "Choices", "Preparing for meetings". Members are developing their skills in participating in peer advocacy.

The group failed to obtain the grant from Children in Need to develop a Youth Forum. This remains a priority but alternative ways of delivering are being considered.

Eich Dewis Chi – Your Voice

This project is funded to deliver one to one advocacy support. During this 12 month period, the advocate has supported individuals in relation to a wide range of issues including care assessments, reviews, support, housing, transition, debt, benefits, child protection, parenting, POVA, court/solicitor/police interviews.

The difficulties in the local authority recruiting a lead Senior Manager for learning disabilities has led to the organisation supporting a significant rise in complaints. It would appear that this vacancy has led to strategic drift locally that has been seen in an increase in waiting time for assessments and reviews, and decisions in relation to delivering care and support plans.

The increase in take up of service reflects the impact of the advocate and the organisation as a whole in increasing the awareness of the service. A new part-time advocate was recruited in October 2009 – funding for one year has been provided by Lloyds TSB.

The lead advocate has continued to ensure that the views and opinions of people with learning disabilities are represented in meetings and forums throughout the country. These include Ceredigion Mental Health Forum, Three Counties Advocacy Group, Ceredigion People First meetings, Direct Payments User Group, Mid and West Wales Person Centred Planning meetings, Parents and Carer Forum, Church in Wales Llais Rhieni meetings, Autism Consultation Forum and Ceredigion Carers Alliance. The organisation benefits enormously from the personal knowledge of individuals and continuity of service of the lead advocate, carers and organisations.

The Board of Trustees was further strengthened at the Annual General Meeting in July 2009. The Board now has a good balance of expertise including knowledge and practical experience of learning disabilities, mental health, parents/carers, person centred planning, direct payments, employment, housing and support. This has resulted in stronger governance and more robust management.

The monitoring of the organisation's work has been strengthened by the greater involvement of people with learning disabilities. The working partnership with Group Gwrando has become part of the organisation's evaluation and strategy/publicity planning.

The organisation has been successful in supporting individuals from the Autism Group to establish a peer advocacy group which has contributed to the Welsh Assembly Autism Plan. They are also working with the Children's advocate to ensure that the Transition Plan is delivered in the county. However, it remains disappointing that there have been no referrals from the Social Services Department in relation to Transition.

North Wales Race Equality Network

Established in 2000, the North Wales Race Equality Network (NWREN) exists to challenge racial discrimination, promote racial harmony and to work towards equality of opportunity for the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) population in North Wales. NWREN are not an organisation that provide advocacy services. They have been

funded for the purpose of providing advocacy training that is sensitive to the needs of the BME population in North Wales. Despite staff illnesses in their small team, NWREN have managed to hit the targets agreed in their application. A lower than anticipated uptake in the training they are offering may be due to the tight budgets groups are working under. However, they have been able to revisit people who expressed an interest in the research phase of the project to keep to their plans. Feedback from the training has been positive and the monitoring visit has included conversations with two of the trainers.

People First Neath Port Talbot

There have been developments within this group with the appointment of a new development worker. They are planning to establish new groups, including the formation of a community based group as all their groups are currently based in day services. Their newsletter group is well established with requests for copies exceeding their target of 200 per edition. The group runs a range of awareness courses on a rotational basis and on average they have 80% attendance every week. These courses include self advocacy training, person centred planning, employment, independence and relationship awareness. The group is involved with a number of external meetings and supports 2 people to attend the Learning Disability Forum, the Learning Disability Strategy Group, and the Area Adult Protection Committee meeting. The group identified the need to strengthen its management, and have successfully become a company limited by guarantee, and have increased their trustees to 7. This is short of their target of 12 trustees, but the current Management Committee have all of the required expertise to manage the group well. The group had hoped to move to the ground floor of their building to improve accessibility, unfortunately this has not happened, and the anticipated office space is now let for commercial use.

Pembrokeshire Advocacy

This continues to be a well established and well managed organisation which offers a flexible range of advocacy services including case work, citizen and self advocacy. The grant has enabled Pembrokeshire Advocacy to continue to employ a case work advocate who has supported individuals with a wide range of issues and challenges to their quality of life. These have included moving to independent living from residential care; childcare proceedings; child contact arrangements; POVA investigations; achieving improved support and services; supporting complaints; supporting individuals in the criminal justice system.

Nine of the individuals being supported are parents with learning disabilities who have been offered 1:1 support in addition to group support via the Parents Group that meets fortnightly. This support is invaluable but often needs to be available on a long term basis because of the multiple issues that parents face.

The links that Pembrokeshire Advocacy has with Pembrokeshire People First have provided individuals with support for the development and delivery of a business plan. In addition, individuals have been supported to participate in consultation events, the learning disability strategy meetings and local planning forums.

One individual was invited to speak to the Head of Community Care Commissioning to discuss options for future POVA training by and for people with learning

disabilities. Three people were supported to give presentations to the Social Services Senior Management Team on their experiences of the local Child Care Services.

Pembrokeshire Advocacy has recruited 2 additional members of staff with funding from Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services and the New Deal. They offer group work and direct work with individuals, providing a vital new service to those who have had the benefit of a 1:1 case worker but who now need an ongoing lower level of support.

The "Get Involved" project started in September 2009 and is funded by WCVA. This will train eight young people with learning disabilities to become peer advocates.

Person to Person - Bridgend and Caerphilly

This group provides Citizen Advocacy and short term advocacy for parents with a learning disability. The coordinators provide support to 35 partnerships in Caerphilly and 30 Partnerships in Bridgend. In addition to this they are both working with a number of parents with learning disabilities. Due to nature of this support much of this work is time consuming and emotionally draining. In Bridgend the coordinator is working with 11 parents with learning disabilities; 4 Citizen Advocates have been found and matched to appropriate parents. She has also contacted a range of organisations and agencies to raise awareness of the Person to Person advocacy services for parents with learning disabilities. The Caerphilly Co-ordinator is currently working with 2 parents with learning disabilities and has been supporting the parents to attend LAC reviews, meetings with Solicitors and meeting staff from children's services. Both coordinators are key members of the 'Finding the Right Support' group that supports parents to be involved; the group meets regularly in Swansea. A support group for 'Parents with Learning Disabilities' was set up in August and meets monthly in Bridgend. The meeting builds confidence for parents who are isolated and who face similar experiences. The parents are in the process of working with the Person to Person team to create an accessible leaflet to promote the service. The issues we had about the management of this group have been addressed. It has now been strengthened and the new members have invigorated the Management Committee and the workers feel more supported.

RCT People First - Rhondda Cynon Taff

The project has received 26 referrals and has undertaken one to one pieces of advocacy, with a number of individuals. While the project intended to provide one to one advocacy support for adults with high support needs, a referral for one individual has highlighted a problem that is having an impact on many more individuals, and therefore a group has now been formed to try and address this one issue. This group is to be facilitated by a peer advocate, as it is based in the day centre where the problem has been highlighted. The project has encountered some difficulties beyond their control with the senior transition worker being on long term sick and with the weather as RCT took all of its centre buses off the road during the snow, so no one could attend school/day services. This has delayed the work being undertaken with a group of 19 year olds. The project continues to use a range of IT and technologies to assist communication for the people they are supporting. While the project appears to be falling a little short of the initial targets it set itself, it is important not to underestimate the impact it is having on the people it has been able to support.

Swansea People First

The Peer Health Advocacy Service for adults with a learning disability in Swansea continues to deliver a valued service to its users. Its focus on health has expanded to incorporate well-being as well. The group held its Annual Health Fair 2009 – “Food, Fitness and Fun”. This year they had more input from service user groups and was increasingly peer led. Over 350 people attended the day. Links have been made with BME communities and workers through attendance at the African Community Health Fair and awareness of Swansea People First was raised by displaying their information and resources. The group has worked on a number of accessible leaflets including one for the ABM University Trust Ambulance Service. Every adult with a learning disability in supported living in Swansea now has an individual copy of the group’s communication tool ‘My Health Book’. This has enabled individuals to develop their self advocacy skills, and the project now has over 20 peer advocates who have the opportunity to take ownership of the training they deliver. The training led by the peer advocates includes training in ‘Breast Awareness’, themed workshops (e.g. ‘Communication Tools to improve health outcomes for adults with learning disabilities’) and an ‘Alcohol Awareness’ Programme delivered with a peer advocate as co-trainer. The group has also created a website that enables the wider community to access the completed work. Through the work of the health advocacy service individuals are empowered to speak up about all issues that affect their lives.

Torfaen People First

Whilst the project was originally hosted by Advocacy Action Wales, the grant funding has enabled the group to establish its independence as a self advocacy group. The enthusiasm and commitment of the members to develop the self-confidence, skills and knowledge required to run the organisation is very apparent and over this 12 month period there has been very significant progress.

As part of the monitoring of the grant scheme, members have identified that Torfaen People First provides a forum for them to talk about things important to them, including their past, present and future; they can develop the confidence to communicate; they can talk about how they are supported in day to day life; they can learn new things such as office skills, emailing and how to travel independently on the bus; they can plan and organise events and talks; and they can take on roles in the organisation and help in the office.

Their work programme was determined by the eighty people who attended their Annual Conference. Important new initiatives have included the Publicity Group that is in charge of getting new members, the newsletter and giving talks; training the student nurses and the police; and regular meetings with the Social Services and Health authorities.

Their work raising awareness of Hate Crime has been recognised by securing a grant from the Home Office to carry out further work on Disability Hate Crime up to March 2010. This included member representatives attending a reception in Downing Street.

There has been a steady increase in the number of members and the Young Person and Membership Worker has developed positive links with the local schools and

colleges. Four young members are undertaking a project with Able Radio, a local internet radio station, to learn the skills to produce and present their own radio show.

Two new members who are parents are putting together a digital story to be presented at the local Joint Strategic Implementation Group.

The members are active and full members of the third sector in Torfaen and this provides and profiles people with a learning disability in their local community and ensures that their voice is heard in the planning and provision of local services.

Powys Advocacy Service for Young People (Trosgynnal)

Hosted by Trosgynnal, this service provides advocacy for young people in Powys from their office base in Builth Wells. As a newly funded project, they have continued to expand and develop their scope, especially as their service becomes more widely known in the county.

The project has supported 24 young people with autism, learning disabilities or complex needs in a variety of ways. All of the young people have been responding to challenges in their lives and have been helped to put forward their views and secure their rights in areas such as housing, education, child and adult protection and transition.

The project has arranged meetings with statutory services, schools and colleges to raise awareness about advocacy in general and the benefits and potential of the project. An awareness raising session has been held at the Further Education College in Powys and this has highlighted the difficulties that face young people leaving college in attaining employment opportunities.

It is very apparent that there are lots of issues that face young people in transition, and that having an advocate to help them navigate the system and to make sure that they are always at the centre of any planning makes a big difference to these young people's lives. This has made them more assertive about making sure that they have their say, including the use of augmentative communication techniques.

The wide range of issues being addressed include options after school/college such as the use of photo consultations or accompanied visits; child protection and POVA; mental health; improving the individualised support offered by service providers; supporting individuals with challenging behaviour/complex needs.

Two young people have been supported to join the Project Management Board. Individuals are also being supported to contribute to the Safeguarding Forum where they have helped develop the Anti-bullying Guide for Powys and were involved in the recruitment of the local Autism Co-ordinator. Informal peer advocacy is being developed. There are plans to develop a DVD about the project.

The part time worker specifically funded by the BILD Project has continued to support young people with autism to attend the local Junior Safeguarding Children Board (which young people have renamed "Eat Carrots, be safe from Elephants".)

This project is extremely well managed and has developed a structured approach to recording its work and monitoring the impact of its input.

Trosgynnal (Advocacy Service for children and young people)

The North Wales Children's Rights Service is a Trosgynnal project, based in Bangor. They have been funded to provide Powys Advocacy service for young people with a learning disability, aged 16 – 25. They operate both a freephone and text number as well as the usual referral routes. It has been a year of changes for the service who are continuing to do excellent work. A change of office premises will be a positive move and give better accommodation and facilities for meetings. The new office is only a short distance away, so local ties will not be affected. Funding of the service is still an issue but the support of the Cardiff head office is a great help.

Your Voice Advocacy Project – Swansea and Neath Port Talbot

The project is to provide one to one crisis and non instructed advocacy support for adults with a learning disability. There are two advocates both working part time, one to cover each area. The project is at present dealing with a wide range of issues. They have found that short term advocacy in some cases takes much longer than they had initially anticipated, with some issues taking up to a year to resolve. The clients being supported have a wide range of disability, from parents with a learning disability to individuals with Downs Syndrome and autism. For their clients with complex needs who require non instructed advocacy, they use the Scope booklet, 'When Communication gets Tough'. There is partnership working across authorities and most of the referrals still come from Social Services. It is unlikely that the group will achieve their target of 30-40 referrals/people supported because of the demands of the advocacy being provided. The group previously provided citizen advocacy, but currently have no funding for this. As they were used to delivering this type of advocacy, they have taken some time to adapt to the provision of direct, crisis advocacy. I feel that due to this their case load will remain smaller than their original targets.

Wrexham Voice Self Advocacy SA Group

The grant funding has been used to enable the organisation to become formally established as a charity and better placed to expand its advocacy work and secure its financial future. Integral to this process has been the work of the Friday Group who have been instrumental in establishing the management committee and providing ongoing input including developing the logo and contributing to the development of all of the policies and procedures. This work has been completed in partnership with the consultants and all of the Charity Commission requirements have now been met.

The organisation has an office base that was opened on 26th November 2009 in the presence of the Major of Wrexham. About 50 people attended the open day linked to the office opening, participating in a range of activities including a creative art workshop celebrating the International Day of Disabled People in association with students from Glyndwr University's Centre for Disability Studies.

Members are undergoing management committee training to develop their skills at working on committees and to ensure that they can fulfil the responsibilities of holding executive posts on committees.

An additional weekly evening group has been set up from January 2010, following three “taster” sessions being held. This group will focus on the development of communication skills through the benefit of technology. Members of the group are participating in the creation of newsletters and the websites, focussing on identified campaigning issues.

The weekly Advocacy Skills Group produced a DVD “My Life – Advocacy through Animation” which contains several short films produced by members. This was launched at a glittering premiere in the conference centre of Glyndwr University on 15th July 2009. The group has also supported a group member to complete their autobiography which will be published shortly. The group members have also been monitoring the use of Disabled Parking Bays; developing their interviewing skills; designing publicity materials; and meeting key members of Social Services and learning disability services.

The organisation have a structured monitoring process that has been developed with the assistance of Voice members to ensure that confidentiality is maintained whilst accurate records are kept.

15. Common Themes

During the monitoring and evaluation of the groups funded during 2009 to 2010, a number of common issues have been identified.

These include:

a) Meeting the Welsh Assembly Government/BILD standards

There has been a considerable improvement in addressing these standards. This is particularly seen in the improved recruitment to management committees and in the supervision and support of workers and staff. The funded self advocacy organisations are working creatively and with considerable effort to ensure that members are fully involved in the organisation's roles, responsibilities and decision making processes. However, this takes time and requires considerable support – particularly given the lack of accessible information available relating to committees and charities.

b) Local Support for Advocacy

Funded groups have the best chance of securing funding from their local authorities or Health Trusts when there is a positive relationship with an individual commissioner who recognises the importance of advocacy and its potential impact. However, this means that such links can be fragile and can end if the individual moves away or their post is changed or a reorganisation occurs.

The monitoring continues to identify a lack of local support or understanding about advocacy with local groups battling to convince commissioners of the need to provide matched or future funding. In addition, there can be a loss in local direction for learning disability services if the local lead manager is not replaced or this role is merged into a wider generic approach,

c) Parents with learning disabilities

Almost all of the funded groups are working with parents with learning disabilities on a range of issues. This can include support during the assessment and court process, but also in supporting childcare arrangements or to cope with having children removed. A number of groups are working with parents who have had their children removed many years ago but have had no support since and are still struggling to come to terms with the emotional impact of what has happened to them.

This work is very emotionally challenging for organisation's staff who have often developed expertise informally. In addition, there is evidence that childcare teams who often lack the expertise to work with parents with learning disabilities simply pass over this responsibility to advocates. The number of parents being supported is rapidly rising and this is an area of work that would benefit from both recognition and additional specialist support/advice/training.

d) Eligibility Criteria

As local authorities tighten their eligibility criteria to concentrate on those “with greatest needs”, there is a danger that an “underclass” is created that includes many people who have been traditionally labelled as having “mild” or “moderate” learning disabilities. Many advocacy organisations are finding that they are picking up the pieces and offering ongoing advocacy support to many such individuals especially at times of mental ill health.

e) Friendships and Relationships

This remains an area of concern that people with learning disabilities are being refused their rights to develop friendships and relationships. It is apparent that many parents/carers and support staff will deny opportunities with well meaning intentions. There continues to be a lack of accessible information available and a lack of opportunities for people to learn about emotions, feelings and how to say “no”. It remains a challenge for advocacy and self advocacy organisations to support peoples’ rights to friendships and relationships when faced with fear from managers, support workers and parents. Alongside these concerns are the increased involvement that advocacy organisations are having in safeguarding and following through POVA discussions and investigations.

f) Quality of Support

There appears to have been an increase in the number of people being supported to make complaints or challenge the quality of the support they are receiving. Individuals are still finding themselves not expected to contribute or challenge the planning and delivery of their support. In many day services, there appears to be little or no involvement in choice/decision making, and limited work on empowerment of individuals in relation to understanding human rights and the effects of discrimination.

g) Advocacy for people placed out of the county

Providing support for individuals who are placed from neighbouring authorities or from England can be particularly difficult. This raises the interesting question of who should be responsible for this, namely the home county or the area where placed.

16. Action Planning Sets

With the funded organisations being spread across the whole of Wales, it is recognised that it can be difficult for groups to network effectively and share good practice or common challenges.

Built into the funding for the grant scheme was an annual opportunity for the groups to meet and work together in action planning sets.

These took place on 29th June, 2009 in Swansea and on the 30th June, 2009 in Welshpool, offering organisations the chance to choose whichever venue was the easiest for them to attend.

Each day started with a short presentation about the Welsh Assembly Advocacy Grant Scheme, its aims and objectives. In addition, the monitoring evaluation process was re-emphasised with organisations being challenged to identify creative ways to capture the outcomes of their advocacy work.

The programme was designed to provide an opportunity to share good practice and explore day to day barriers and challenges for:

- Management Committees
- Self advocacy group members
- Advocates
- Self advocacy group facilitators/supporters

The rest of the day was spent working in the facilitated small groups to participate and share ideas amongst themselves. Each group concentrated on issues linked to the Welsh Assembly/BILD standards to provide a focus and framework.

Over 40 people attended the Swansea event and more than 20 participated in Welshpool. The evaluation forms completed at the end of each day emphasised how much people appreciated the opportunity to work together, network and share new ideas and good practice.

The main issues raised over the 2 days included:

- The positive impact of advocacy on the lives of people with learning disabilities across Wales.
- The significant progress being made by groups and organisations to meet the required outcomes of their grants and the Welsh Assembly/BILD advocacy standards.
- Concerns about future funding and the difficulty in achieving continuity and strategic direction with short term funding. Only a few groups were achieving diversity in funding streams – many spoke of the way in which seeking funding opportunities can divert organisations from their main advocacy task.
- It takes time to ensure that self advocacy organisations empower their members to fully participate in the management and decision making involved.

- Concerns about the future role of citizen advocacy and whether future funding might focus on issue/crisis advocacy and self advocacy.
- The challenges of recruiting volunteers as committee members to ensure a spread of skills, knowledge and experience and the expertise to provide supervision, appraisal and career development to staff/workers.
- The difficulties of “capturing” the impact and outcomes of advocacy interventions – concerns were expressed about whether commissioners in local authorities or Health Trusts understood the requirements for or impacts of advocacy and may be unwilling to commission it.
- The opportunities that developing training to be delivered by trainers/co-trainers with learning disabilities in the areas of values, disability awareness, hate crime, equality, and ways of communication. Organisations were delivering such training to a range of audiences included Social Services, health staff including GP’s and nurses, and police officers.
- The challenge to meet the advocacy needs of people from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities – the Welshpool event saw the DVD produced by Cardiff/Newport People First.
- There remains very little information that is accessible or focussed on the needs of self advocates, particularly in relation to the running of organisations and their roles, responsibilities and legal requirements.
- Self advocates at the Welshpool event shared their ongoing experiences of abuse and harassment in their local communities.
- The potential isolation of single workers linked to organisations.

The events were successful and the feedback was generally positive, especially in relation to the opportunities to meet, network and share best practice.

“I enjoyed the sharing and being inspired to get support from others”

Evaluation Form

There were some difficulties with both days. The Swansea events suffered from our use of a large room for all of the groups and in hindsight it would have been better to work in a number of smaller break-out rooms. Unfortunately, the Welshpool event suffered from being held on the hottest day of the year in a venue that did not have adequate air conditioning.

It is expected that those attending will maintain or develop further links with colleagues in peer organisations in the grant programme.

Suggested areas to explore next year included:

- Advice on developing a funding strategy
- Working with and managing volunteers
- Showcasing best practice/practice exchange
- Explore issues relating to Race and Diversity

17. Evaluation of Welsh Advocacy Grant Scheme

The present Welsh Advocacy Grant Scheme runs until the end of March 2011. In order to inform the decision making process as to future funding, BILD was asked to identify an independent organisation to carry out this work and provide a report for the Welsh Assembly Government by January 2010.

The aims of the evaluation were:

1. To map the current availability of adult learning services across Wales.
2. To consider how the grant scheme fits within the overall policy directions set by the Welsh Assembly Government and developed by the Learning Disability Implementation Advisory Group.
3. To assess:
 - The impact of the grant funded advocacy provided on the lives of people with learning disabilities and autistic spectrum disorders.
 - The effectiveness of BILD in managing, implementing, administering, monitoring and evaluating the grant scheme.
 - The effectiveness of the decision making processes linked to the application rounds.
 - How effective the management of funded groups is in delivering their objectives as set out in their applications.
 - How successful funded groups are in identifying alternate funding streams to sustain their ongoing work beyond the life of the grant funding.
 - How well best practice has been identified and disseminated.

The evaluation opportunity was widely advertised and individuals and organisations were invited to submit an expression of interest. (**Appendix 3**)

Over 23 organisations applied and the selection process led to the Welsh Assembly Government asking Action4Advocacy to complete the work. This was carried out from November 2009 to January 2010 and was overseen by a BILD-led steering group co-ordinated by Liz Brooks, Development Manager. The Steering Group members were Kate Richardson, John Haw and Liz Brooks.

The draft report was submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government at the end of January 2009 and is currently being considered whilst this report was being compiled.

Appendix One – Funded Groups

Name of Organisation	Money received 2008-2009 (Yr 1)	Money received 2009-2010 (Yr 2)	Money to be received 2010-2011 (Yr 3)
ABCD (Cymru) Access for BME children with disabilities)	£8,541	£15,204	£13,760
A Voice for You (Formerly Montgomeryshire Citizen Advocacy	£15,000	£28,400	£25,760
Advocacy Action Wales	£15,000	£30,000	Group no longer in existence after May 2010 and will not receive planned 3rd year funding of £30,000.
Advocacy Matters Wales	£13,956	£26,092	£24,054
BCA Independent Advocacy	£15,000	£29,999	£29,561
Bridgend People First (Continuing Health care)	£4,561	£8,258	Not funded in this year
Cardiff People First, Community Voices	£12,320	£30,000	£30,000
Cardiff People First, Newport People First BME	-	£28,265	£30,000
Caerphilly People First	£13,755	£28,094	£28,696

Name of Organisation	Money received 2008-2009 (Yr 1)	Money received 2009-2010 (Yr 2)	Money to be received 2010-2011 (Yr 3)
Carmarthenshire People First	£14,999	£30,000	£30,000
Ceredigion People First	£12,814	£27,269	£25,227
Cynon Taf People First Limited Company - formerly known as RCT People First (High Support Needs)	£15,000	£27,844	£29,723
Eich dewis chi - Your choice	£13,845	£25,353	£22,849
North Wales Race Equality Network	£8,818	£24,096	-
Pembrokeshire Advocacy	£15,000	£29,247	£26,359
People First Neath Port Talbot	£15,000	£30,000	£30,000
Person to Person CA	£8,472	£30,000	£30,000
Swansea People First	£14,845	£28,751	£25,199
Tros Gynnal (Powys Advocacy Service)	£13,500	£24,000	£21,000
Tros Gynnal (Powys Advocacy worker for transition)	-	£30,000	£27,757
Torfaen People First	£15,000	£30,000	£30,000
Your Voice Advocacy Project	£13,823	£27,6456	£28,959
Wrexham Voice Self Advocacy Group	£15,000	£30,000	£30,000

Appendix 2 - Equalities statistics (up to December 2009)

Groups were asked to complete this form as part of the monitoring process to help identify where there were gaps in advocacy provision. Ethnicity monitoring was new to the majority of them. Ethnicity was recorded when it was known but some groups did not keep this detail.

Ethnic Background	SERVICE USERS No.
White:	
British	951
Irish	1
Other: Russian	1
Welsh	7
Lithuanian	1
Not specified	30
Mixed:	20
White & Black Caribbean	2
White & Black African	8
White & Asian	-
Other mixed background: Dual heritage	3
Asian:	
Asian or Asian British	-
Indian	5
Pakistani	19
Bangladeshi	9
Chinese	1
Other Asian background	-
Black:	
Black or Black British	5
Caribbean	2
African (including Somali families)	25
Other Black background	-
Other background	-
Unknown	-
TOTAL	1090
Disability	SERVICE USERS No.
Number of people known to be on the autistic spectrum	191
Number of people understood to have profound and complex learning disabilities	198
Number of people known to use continuing health care services	53
Gender	SERVICE USERS No.
Number of women	501
Number of men	592

Appendix 3

British Institute of Learning Disabilities

Welsh Assembly Government Advocacy Grant Scheme for People with Learning Disabilities and Autism Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

Purpose of the Grant Scheme

“To seek to ensure that adults with learning disabilities and autistic spectrum disorders across Wales have reasonable access to an appropriate range of advocacy services”.

Aim of the Advisory Group

To provide advice and support to enable the grant scheme to achieve its purpose and to meet the aims, objectives and requirements of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Objectives

- 1) To ensure the delivery of the grant programme in line with the agreed timescales.
- 2) To contribute to the development of annual action planning workshops and website content.
- 3) To identify ways to promote and share the best practice emerging from the grant scheme.
- 4) To assist in problem solving and addressing any issues or challenges.
- 5) To provide support to the BILD team delivering the grant programme.
- 6) To advise and comment on documents produced by the grant programme team.
- 7) To report progress to the Welsh Assembly Government.

Membership

Membership of the group will include the following:

- BILD Chief Executive
- Advocacy Grant Programme team members
- A person with a learning disability with an advocacy background
- A third sector representative with knowledge and experience of Welsh Social Care sector

Meetings

There will be a minimum of 2 meetings each year in May and November. Additional meetings can be arranged by agreement of the members if required to meet any special circumstances.

The meetings will be arranged and chaired by BILD's Chief Executive.

Members will be expected to attend meetings and actively participate.

The group will review its membership at its May meeting each year.

Given the small size of the advisory group, a quorum at each meeting will be three. This must include the Chief Executive of BILD and at least one external person. However, steps will be taken to try to ensure that all members can attend each meeting.

Each meeting will be held at the BILD's offices in Kidderminster.

Minutes of each meeting will be taken and circulated with all relevant papers prior to the meeting.

The Advocacy Grant Scheme will pay all reasonable travel costs for members attending and refreshments will be provided for the meetings. Travel claim forms will need to be returned to the Chief Executive for authorisation.

Appendix 4

Expression of interest for the evaluation of the advocacy grants scheme for adults with learning disabilities and autistic spectrum disorders in Wales

Introduction

The Welsh Assembly Government has funded advocacy services for people with a learning disability in Wales since 2003. The grant scheme has been administered by the British Institute of Learning Disabilities (BILD) from the beginning and the current scheme runs until March 2011. In order to help the decision making process in relation to future funding of advocacy in Wales, an evaluation is required.

Purpose of the grant scheme

The purpose of the grant scheme is to seek to ensure that adults with learning disabilities and autistic spectrum disorders across Wales have reasonable access to an appropriate range of advocacy services. The main beneficiaries of the grant finding are in the voluntary sector or are other not for profit organisations. The grant scheme resources are primarily to meet an organisation's revenue costs.

Aims of the evaluation

- To identify the availability of advocacy services.
- To identify the impact of the advocacy on the lives of people with learning disabilities and autistic spectrum disorders.
- To identify how the grant scheme fits within the overall policy direction set by the Welsh Assembly Government and developed by the Learning Disability Advisory Group.
- To measure the effectiveness of BILD in managing, implementing, administrating, monitoring and evaluating the grant scheme.
- To review the decision making processes linked to the application rounds.
- To examine how effective the management of funded groups is in delivering their objectives as set out in their applications.

To examine how successful groups are in identifying alternate funding streams to sustain their ongoing work beyond the life of the grant funding.

To establish how well best practice has been identified and disseminated.

Details of the evaluation

This evaluation will begin on 1 September 2009 and will need to be completed no later than 9 January 2010. The fee of £20,000 will cover all related expenses including travel, accommodation and subsistence. This will be paid to the successful applicant in two instalments, the first at the end of October 2009 and the final payment on receipt of the final evaluation report.

Application

In addressing the evaluation aims, please provide no more than four sides of A4 detailing:

- Skills and experience to undertake this evaluation
- Proposed methodology
- Project plan with key milestones and dates
- Who will be undertaking the work
- Indicative budget including number of days committed to this work
- How you will overcome unexpected challenges

The deadline for return of expressions of interest is Friday 24th July.

Please send to: g.pardoe@bild.org.uk or post to BILD, Champion House, Green Street, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY10 1JL

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