

### **Aims of the Organisation/Service**

Disability Sheffield is a disability organisation which aims to promote choice, control and independence for disabled people in Sheffield. Alongside our information service we run an advocacy service which offers a free, confidential and independent advocacy service for disabled people over the age of 18, living in Sheffield. Sometimes we all need help to get our voices heard and our problems addressed – this is what advocacy is about. We have a small team of paid advocates and are looking for volunteers to work alongside us, and increase the number of people we are able to offer advocacy to.

### **Volunteer Role Description**

The role of an advocate is to work alongside individuals to help them speak up and be heard. This one to one relationship is called an 'advocacy partnership' and is a partnership of equals. The advocate will spend time getting to know an individual, helping them to explore options and make informed choices; they will support the individual to express their wishes and secure their rights. In very practical terms the type of things you would be doing as an advocate may include:-

- Visiting your advocacy partner on a regular basis
- Looking up and sharing information with your advocacy partner
- Helping your partner to prepare for meeting and appointments
- Attending meetings and appointments, helping your advocacy partner to say what they want to say
- Challenging decisions with or on behalf of individuals, particularly in relation to services received from health services or social services.
- Writing letters (sometimes of complaint)

### **Your Skills and Experience for this Role**

- Good listening and communication skills
- A welcoming and positive approach
- Reliability
- Ability to present information in a clear and concise manner
- A desire to support the work of Disability Sheffield
- Direct experience of disability is desirable but not essential

### **Benefits of Volunteering with Us**

- Training in advocacy provided
- Experience of advocacy
- Wide and varied experience of health and social care issues
- Regular support and supervision
- Opportunity to become a Disability Sheffield member and get involved in the work of the organisation
- Opportunity to work as part of a team and attend team meetings
- An inclusive and welcoming environment

Who to Contact for more Information about this role:

Lucy Davies, Advocacy Manager

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