

Summary

Developing a toolkit that self-advocates can use to check projects deliver what they promise

About the DRILL Programme

DRILL (Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning) was an innovative 5 year, UK wide programme led by disabled people, for disabled people and funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

Launched in 2015, the programme was managed by a partnership of Disability Action Northern Ireland, Disability Rights UK, Disability Wales and Inclusion Scotland.

The aim of the programme was to build better evidence about approaches which enable disabled people to achieve independent living. The findings from the projects it funded can be used to inform future provision across a wide range of policy areas, and give a greater voice to disabled people in decisions which affect them.

This is one of a series of summaries of the project supported by DRILL. Final reports, toolkits and summaries of all the projects are available from the DRILL website at www.drilluk.org.uk.

Overview of the project

This project aimed to design a self-advocacy toolkit to be used by local groups of people with learning disabilities to check whether a project has been successful.

It is also designed to help show these groups how they are meeting the Social Services and Well Being Wales Act 2014.

Approach

The project held workshops with various self-advocacy groups, determining what was important to them and how they would show their projects have worked.

All Wales People First facilitators, funders and individuals who pay for self-advocacy projects were also consulted.

Findings

The project identified a number of ways to ensure that projects are genuinely member-led.

The members of the project must work from something which is important to them and has the ability to be developed into an achievable aim. Information from various sources such as press reports, focus groups, social media and interviews can be gathered in support of the project aim.

The project produced 16 cards which suggested aims for projects, including better healthcare, getting out more and being more confident. These can be utilised by project members to aid in deciding the aims of their project.

In relation to planning, it is important to assess funding, members, management and publicity for a project. These headings can be written down, and members can add their own answers.

Whilst the project is ongoing, meetings at regular intervals are important to the project's success. Discussions surrounding whether the project is on target, any information about how it is going, ensuring it is being run well and that all members are being involved in any big decisions are key.

When the project is complete, it is important to ensure someone is delegated to write reports and there is someone to check reports before the deadline.

Many self-advocacy groups are doing great things, but they are less good at publicising their work. It is important that key ideas and findings from these projects are widely available.

Findings (continued)

It is also important that people such as policy makers, professionals in the research field and other self-advocacy groups are made aware of the findings. This enables the recommendations of self-advocacy projects to be implemented.

Recommendations

The project outlined many recommendations, some of which are listed here. A copy of the toolkit is available from the link below.

- Utilise the All Wales People First MIRROR policy in determining the principles of self-advocacy
- Always make sure everyone has a voice and that they are involved in the project
- Use the 16 cards provided by the toolkit to determine the project aims
- Meetings at regular intervals are important in ensuring the project is achieving its aims and that everything is running smoothly
- Always obtain permission when taking and using photos
- Having a longer report as well as an easy read report makes projects more inclusive
- Use social media to give succinct descriptions of the aims and outcomes of the project
- The toolkit should be used when deciding about funding, checking a project is doing what you agreed and deciding if the project was a success.

Toolkit

[Developing a toolkit that self-advocates can use to check if projects deliver what they promise](#)

Please click on the link to see a copy of the toolkit.

Project Partners

**All Wales People
First**



**Barod Community
Interest Company**



**Janet Walmsley
Associates**

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