

Self Advocacy in Action

Working together and helping others speak out



Our Business News

Issue 12

March 2015

Welcome to our E-News

Welcome to Self Advocacy in Actions March 2015 E-news this month we are going to tell you about what happened in 1987, the year we set up. We hope you will enjoy finding out about where it all began ...

Thank you for reading our E-news.

From the Self Advocacy in Action Management Committee



Our History: Where it all began

In December 1987 we had the very first Self Advocacy in Action meeting. 16 people with learning difficulties from South Derbyshire and North West Leicestershire came together because we wanted to be able to speak up about things that mattered in our lives. We had two volunteer supporters, Barbara Howard and Gwyn Fraser. We had no funding at all at this time and we had no idea that this was the start of something very important that would still be going 27 years later in 2015.

Our two volunteer supporters began by making sure we could be in control and that has started something that never has, and never should, change. Supporters help us in our work and help us to do it well but we are in control and make our own decisions because Self Advocacy in Action is our organisation.

When we first set up we had the same number of places in the group for people from North West Leicestershire and South Derbyshire. The people with learning disabilities who joined in 1987 came from Coalville Resource Centre or Newhall Day Centre. At this time, Barbara worked in the Coalville area and Gwyn worked in South Derbyshire.



We had lots of things to think about when we started and many of the decisions we made back then have helped to build us as an organisation and to lay out what our values and beliefs are. The most important thing we agreed was that people with learning difficulties should have their own group where they could get more confidence and speak up. We all knew what it was like to be talked down to, to be treated like children and not to be taken seriously. We wanted to be a completely independent organisation that made our own decisions and own agenda. We



believed people with learning difficulties knew what they wanted and could make it happen. We still believe that today.

Even though we started from small beginnings, with no funding, we have always had strength together as a group. Going right back to 1987, we have worked hard at supporting each other, listening to each other and working hard together.



Next month we will tell you about what we did in the late 1980's and early 1990's when we really got going with our work and began to reach out to more people with learning difficulties through conferences and newsletters.

We hope you will enjoy learning more about Self Advocacy in Action and our history.

we'll come to you

A service that comes to you; at residential homes or supported living. For people with learning disabilities who may find it hard to get out and about.

Table games



Fun activities

Arts and Craft



Speaking out

Contact us on 0116 2293035

Or email – selfad93@yahoo.co.uk

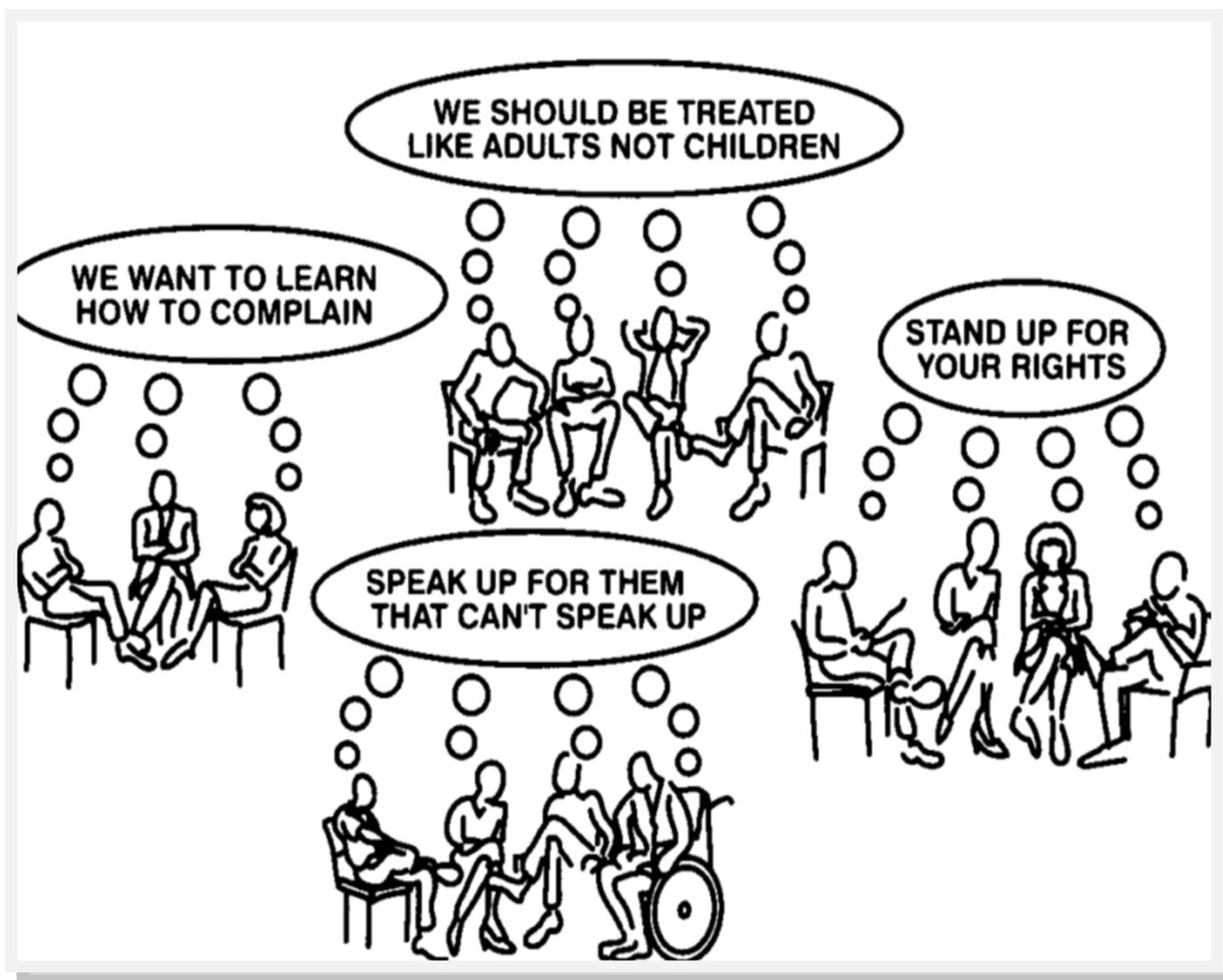
All staff and volunteers are DBS checked

Only £2 per person; first session FREE of charge

First session Free

Over the coming months we will tell you about the varied and interesting work that we do, including a more in depth look at our Self Advocacy groups, the training we provide and a unique opportunity to find out about the individuals behind the organisation.

If you can't wait for more information, or have a question about our organisation or our services, please contact us on 0116 229 3035 or email us at selfad93@yahoo.co.uk



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