

## Impact Advocacy Service Volunteer Advocate



**Title of role:** Volunteer Advocate

**Hours per Week:** Approximately 3 hours a week, however this is flexible

**Accountable to:** Volunteer Coordinator

**Line Managed by:** Team Leader

### Benefits of volunteering

- You will become part of a friendly team.
- You will get lots of support in your role, including regular supervision and monthly peer support meetings.
- Full training will be provided along with shadowing opportunities.
- All expenses paid.

### Main Activities

We always want to ensure that volunteers are happy and enjoying their activities. Volunteers can choose from the following two options or do a mixture of the two:

- ❖ Support our weekly advocacy drop-in sessions, which involve welcoming the advocacy partner into the building, explaining what our service can offer and noting down what they require support with. This information can then be passed on to an advocate who can offer more advocacy sessions in follow up.
- ❖ Support an advocacy partner directly, working with them 1-2-1 until their issue is resolved, which can be anything from 2 to 6 sessions with someone. An advocate will always be available to help and this will be once you're comfortable to take on your own cases.

### The role of a volunteer advocate involves:

- Working with people with various disabilities and health conditions to make sure that their voice is heard. This may involve helping them to access information and services, supporting people to make decisions, or speaking on their behalf to professionals, family members or others.
- Keeping some simple notes of your meetings in accordance with the Impact Advocacy guidelines.
- Updating your Team Leader on a regular/monthly basis. If possible, to attend regular supervision sessions, team meetings and training events – not compulsory.
- Working within the Project and Organisational policies and procedures.

### **We ask advocates to:**

- Be non-judgmental.
- Have good listening skills.
- Understand the need to respect confidentiality.
- Be able to cope with stressful situations.
- Have the time to volunteer on a regular basis, approximately 3 hours a week.
- Have time, and be willing, to attend training and supervision sessions as required.
- Be committed to equal opportunities.
- Be willing to develop knowledge and skills.

### **A quote from one of our current volunteers:**

*"I feel that advocacy provides a great opportunity to become involved in the local community. Indeed, it is a privilege to feel that by meeting people and understanding their needs, it's possible to make such a big difference to their lives."*