Speakup Self Advocacy and Sheffield Hallam University partnership working

By

Jonathan Evans
Speakup Self Advocacy

- Speakup Self Advocacy is a service user led advocacy organisation for people who have a learning difficulty / autism with 60-70 self – advocates attending regularly.
Speakup Self Advocacy

• We train professionals on how to work with people with learning difficulties / ASC - Autism Spectrum Condition

• We run meetings and forums
Speakup Self Advocacy

- We put information into easy read and we make friendly DVDs
- The stills are from our “Decisions Decisions” DVD around the Mental Capacity Act
- We deliver in-house training to our self – advocates
- We have representatives on different government boards and the National Forum for people with Learning Difficulties
Speakup and Sheffield Hallam University joint work

We have worked jointly with Sheffield Hallam University for 8 years on a number of projects including:

- Having SHU Students on placement with Speakup

- “Partners in Learning” group
Speakup and Sheffield Hallam University joint work

- Evaluation of 16 undergraduate health & social care courses
  (This was done through 1-1 interviews / focus groups)
Speakup and Sheffield Hallam University joint work

- Autism research
- “I’m A Person Too” impact assessing
Students on placement with Speakup

- SHU has placed around 20 people on the Social Work / Nursing / Joint courses with Speakup

- Students work with people with learning disability / autism whilst on placements
Students on placement with Speakup

Students on placement get the chance to:

• Attend different meetings with self-advocates

• Deliver sessions with / to people on a 1-1 / group basis
Students on placement with Speakup

- Get the chance to work on film scripts
- Work on relationship maps and life stories with people
- Do people’s Person Centred Plan’s with them
Placement evaluation / Partners in learning group

- Speakup members get to assess the students on placement in a number of ways.
- 1-1 assessing and evaluating
- “Partners in Learning” group
Support for people with complex needs

- Students support people to work with the Rotherham Partnership Board to make sure the voices of people with complex needs are heard
“Partners In Learning” group

- A service-user led student placement planning group
- Made up of groups and organisations that have had students on placement:
  - Speakup Self Advocacy
  - Keyring
  - Chad (Change for all Doncaster)
  - Family placement – where a student is placed with a family who has a child / adult with a learning disability
“Partners in Learning” group

• We are a very active group and help with:

• Student meet-and-greet session
• Interviewing students
• Helping to plan and run lessons
• Hold annual conferences around learning disability issues
Interviews / Focus Groups

• Speakup and SHU have worked together to run 1-1 interviews and focus groups assessing what students on SHU health / social work related courses have learnt, and how they think courses could be better

• The link for this report is http://www.friendlyinformation.org.uk/LDTKeySkills/index.html
Interviews / Focus Groups

• The focus groups were based around the Mencap report “Death By Indifference”

• (This is Emma’s story, who was one of the 6 case studies in the report. It is read by Kirsty McMichael, who I will talk about later in the presentation)
Autism Spectrum Condition research

• SHU conducted research into ASC (Autism Spectrum Conditions) and how to potentially support students who have ASC

• Speakup set a group up to help with this research. This was done by recruiting people from within Speakup who has a diagnosis of ASC
Autism Spectrum Condition research

• This group developed their own terms of reference / ground rules about membership and what the group will do

• A PhD student was involved in this process

• This group has been supported periodically by SHU students.

• This group is also supported by NAS Rotherham and a member of Stonham Housing
Autism Spectrum Condition research

• The group helped this research by filling in mood diaries and wearing sensors
• The group had to fill in a few different mood diaries to get the layout right and to get the correct useful data
• The stress sensors may help to read physical signs when people with ASC have serious anxieties
Autism Research

• This work has helped Speakup to set up a group for adults with ASC or Asperger’s

• Regularly attended by 7/8 self-advocates with ASC/Aspergers
Autism research (Speakup outcomes)

• The group has been asked to help write 2 book chapters
• Now planning Autism awareness training
• The group has also had a request for a member with autism to sit on the partnership board
“I’m A Person Too” impact assessing

- “I’m a Person Too” is a training package to help professionals (doctors, job centre staff, etc) to support people with learning disabilities /ASC
- “I’m A Person Too” has trained around 2200 professionals
- “I’m A Person Too” has also won a National Training Award
“I’m A Person Too” impact assessing

- SHU helped “I’m A Peron Too” assess attendees learning.
- SHU designed a questionnaire which was given to the attendees before and after the training.
- If attendees had got more questions right after the training then this started to show impact.
Person Centred Planning

- This is Kirsty’s Person Centred Plan which I have got consent to show
- Kirsty has worked for Speakup for about 3 yrs first as a cleaner then on reception.
- This DVD took about 20 hours to make
Conclusion

“I feel that Speakup and Sheffield Hallam University have done a lot of great work together and hope it continues” Jonathan Evans
Thankyou for listening.