 Brighton and Hove Speak Out

 **Volunteer Role Description**

 **Sussex Self-Advocacy Group Supporter**

**About us**

Speak Out is an independent advocacy charity for people with learning disabilities living in Brighton and Hove. We support people to:

* Speak up and get their voices heard,
* Have control over their lives and find solutions to their problems
* Participate in and positively contribute to their community

**What we need**

**Sussex Self-Advocacy Group Supporter:**  Help support the Sussex Advocacy Group Coordinator to run monthly self-advocacy group sessions for people with learning disabilities.

**What the role involves**

* Being available for 3 hours once a month to provide support for Mid Sussex Speak Up self-advocacy group in Burgess Hill.
* You will be present to support people in a group setting
* You will adhere to Speak Out’s Code of Practice
* You may be required to help clear up at the end of sessions.
* Ad hoc administrative tasks

**Support**

* You will be supporting the group alongside a member of staff
* Initial induction training will cover the Principles of Advocacy, Speak Out’s Code of Practice and how to advocate within this framework
* Ongoing training opportunities will be available

**Commitment**

* 3 hours once a month (2nd Thursday of the month, 2:00pm – 5:00pm)
* The group will meet at the Cherry Tree Centre, Fairfield Road, Burgess Hill, RH15 8QB

**Benefits**

* Engage directly with local and national policies and campaigns to make Brighton and Hove a better place to be a person with a learning disability
* See positive outcomes for vulnerable and disadvantaged people as a direct result of your support
* Use and expand upon your existing experience and skills
* Access a range of free courses and training
* Be part of a team committed to a better, more equal and inclusive society
* Open up career opportunities, develop your CV and gain work references

**Essential qualities**

* Commitment to equal opportunities
* Good listening and observational skills to allow people with learning disabilities to speak up
* To be non-judgmental and respectful towards people
* A sense of fun and humour, and the willingness to try new things
* Understand the need for confidentiality of independent advocacy
* Ability to work independently, use initiative and remain calm in stressful situations
* A willingness to develop skills, engage in supervision and undertake training as required
* Basic IT skills that include Word, Outlook or similar

**Desirable knowledge**

* Knowledge and understanding of disability issues and the role of independent advocacy

***When appointed, please sign and return this role description and a duplicate will be forwarded to you***

Volunteer Name: Signature: Date:

Staff name: Signature: Date:

All Staff & volunteer appointments are subject to satisfactory DBS Clearance.